



SUGGESTED FOR
SENIOR READERS

1
DEC

BLAUSTEIN • WILLIAMS III • PALMIOTTI



"BE CAREFUL
OF WHAT
YOU WISH
FOR, KIDDO."

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MILESTONE

DEATHWISH

IT'S A LOVE STORY



DIRECT SALES



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7 61941 20392 8

NORTH STREET
SEAPORT DISTRICT.

3:45 AM

FIVE YEARS AGO I
THOUGHT I WAS NUTS.

WORKIN' ALL MY OFF-DUTY
TIME ON A CASE NOBODY
GAVE A RAT'S ASS ABOUT.

LIEUTENANT LEON
MARTIN RAHM.

SOME FREAK WAS
OFFIN' THE QUEENS
WHO WORKED THE PIER.

NASTY BUSINESS... AND I
WAS HANDLIN' IT ALONE.

ONE OF DAKOTA'S FINEST.

EVERYBODY HAD
NAMES FOR
'EM... SOME
CLINICAL... SOME
DISGUSTING... I
JUST CALLED 'EM
THE GIRLS...

I WANTED TO
MOTHER THEM.

THAT WAS THE NIGHT
I MET DINI--

--HER AND HER
FRIEND HAD
JUST MET UP
WITH SIGKO.

DINI GOT
SLASHED OVER
HER LEFT EYE.
HER FRIEND
JACKIE WASN'T
AS LUCKY.



FIRST TIME I'D COME
ACROSS ONE OF THE
GIRLS STILL ALIVE--

--BUT THEN, DINI WAS
PRETTY SCRAPPY. SHE'D
ACTUALLY MANAGED
TO STAB THE PERP
WITH HIS OWN KNIFE.



--NUTBOY RAN
WHEN HE SAW
MY FLASHLIGHT.



SHE CALLED
HIM BOOTS.

I WAS SO CLOSE, I COULD
ACTUALLY FEEL THE
BLOOD IN MY EYES AS I
WATCHED HIM ESCAPE.

CRASH



I COULD
SEE WHY.

IT WAS A FOUR-YEAR
WAIT 'TIL I CAUGHT
UP WITH HIM AGAIN.

BUT I'M GETTING
AHEAD OF MYSELF.

IT WAS A NIGHT OF
FIRST ENCOUNTERS.

I'D MET AN ANGEL--

--A DEVIL--

--AND SUDDENLY I WAS
FACE TO FACE WITH
DEATH'S DARK MIRROR

FREEZE
TWISTO.

EVERY COP
KNEW THIS
GUY'S TAG.

DEATHWISH.

TOLD HIM I WAS
A COP. STARTED
TO REACH FOR
MY BADGE.

LIKE TWENTY BUCKS
OF HOT METAL IN A
LEATHER CASE WOULD
MATTER TO THIS GUY.



HE WAS
READING
ME.



YOU'RE A
COP ALRIGHT,
KIDDO--

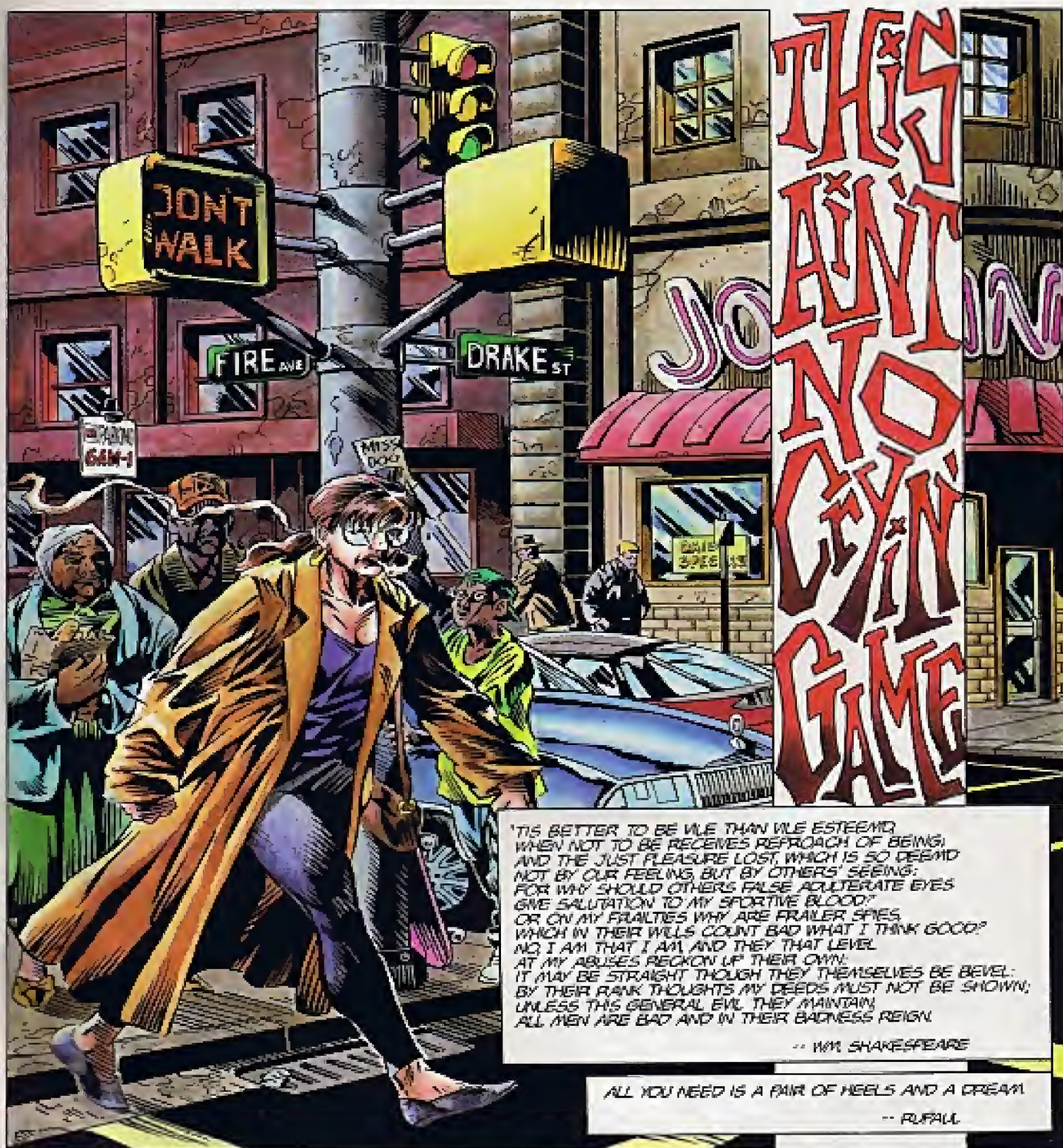
--AND
MAYBE YOU
HAVEN'T FACED
IT YET--



"BUT YOU'RE ALSO
ONE OF THE GIRLS"



SEE YOU
IN HELL



'TIS BETTER TO BE VILE THAN VILE ESTEEM'D
WHEN NOT TO BE RECEIVES REPROACH OF BEING;
AND THE JUST PLEASURE LOST, WHICH IS SO DEEM'D
NOT BY OUR FEELING, BUT BY OTHERS' SEEING;
FOR WHY SHOULD OTHERS FALSE ADULTERATE EYES
GIVE SALUTATION TO MY SPORTIVE BLOOD?
OR ON MY FRAILTIES WHY ARE FRAILER SPIES,
WHICH IN THEIR WILLS COUNT BAD WHAT I THINK GOOD?
NO, I AM THAT I AM, AND THEY THAT LEVEL
AT MY ABUSES RECKON UP THEIR OWN;
IT MAY BE STRAIGHT THOUGH THEY THEMSELVES BE BEVEL:
BY THEIR RANK THOUGHTS MY DEEDS MUST NOT BE SHOWN;
UNLESS THIS GENERAL EVIL THEY MAINTAIN,
ALL MEN ARE BAD AND IN THEIR BADNESS REIGN.

-- WM. SHAKESPEARE

ALL YOU NEED IS A PAIR OF HEELS AND A DREAM

-- RUFUS

DAKOTA 2nd PRECINCT

OKAY... IT'S FOUR YEARS
OF THERAPY LATER.

THE FORCE RECOGNIZES ME
OFFICIALLY AS LT. MARISA RAHM,
THE FIRST PRE-OPERATIVE
TRANSEXUAL POLICE LIEUTENANT
THE CITY HAS EVER EMPLOYED.

MY FELLOW OFFICERS
TREAT ME WITH THINLY
VEILED CONTEMPT.

SKIPPER SAYS IT TOOK
ME STONES TO STAY
ON THE FORCE.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY
I'M KEEPIN' THEM.

HANG ON A
SEC. I THINK MY
DAY JUST GOT
WORSE--

DON'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT
TAKING ME OFF
THE CASE!

RAHM!
I PREFER MY MEN
TO YELL AT ME
BEHIND CLOSED
DOORS.

PEOPLE SKIPPER--
CAN YOU LEARN TO
SAY PEOPLE!

THE DOOR,
MARISA--

THE CASE, GIL!
I'VE BEEN ON THE
SEAFORT MURDER
CASE FOR FOUR
YEARS--

CLOSER
TO FIVE.

AND MOST OF THAT
TIME HAS BEEN SPENT
TRYIN' TO KEEP MY
BADGE--

I'M NOT
EXACTLY MS.
POPULARITY, YA
KNOW.

SKIPPER WAS REALLY A SWEETIE. ALWAYS HAD TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO RE-ESTABLISH HIS AUTHORITY...DO HIS DADDY THING.



EVEN MARTIN KNEW THIS DANCE.

C'MON, GIL, I'M REAL CLOSE.

THAT'S WHAT SCARES ME, MADDIE.



IAD THINKS YOU'RE DATING ONE OF OUR MATERIAL WITNESSES.



HATED TO KEEP STUFF FROM SKIP. ACTUALLY I WAS LIVING WITH DANL.



LOVERS--YA KNOW?

BY THE BOOK, MADDIE, YOU UNDERSTAND ME?



HEY, SKIP--



I LIVE MY LIFE BY THE BOOK.





SAY HELLO TO
BOGEY MAN.

LAST TIME I SAW
HIM HE WAS
WEARING A MASK



HE SHOULDVE KEPT IT--
LOOKED LESS CRAZY.

HIS NAME WAS WILT.
BUT IF YOU CALLED
HIM THAT HED GO OFF



HE BECAME
DEATHWISH A
VIGILANTE WHO
SPECIALIZED
IN PLAYING
EXECUTIONER
TO SEXUAL
DEVIANTS.

HE KNEW
HIS PREY.

I FIGURED I COULD PUMP
HIM FOR SOME INFO MAYBE
HE WANTED BOOTS ON A
FLATTER AS MUCH AS ME.




WE WENT THROUGH TWO
PACKS OF SMOKES BEFORE HE
NAMED HIS PRICE.

HE
REMEMBERED
MARTIN.



HE WANTED
TO KNOW
MY STORY.



NOT TOO HARD TO
TELL... THIS MOVIE RAN
THROUGH MY HEAD
TWENTY-FOUR-SEVEN.

IT WAS WITH ME WHEN I
WAS A SMALL CHILD
LYING AWAKE AT NIGHT
AND CURSING THE FATES.

IT WAS WITH ME WHEN I
WALKED DOWN THE AISLE
AT MY WEDDING... LIKE A
JEW AT TREEBLINKA.

IT WAS WITH ME WHEN
I TOOK THE SEAPORT
MURDER'S CASE.

IT WAS A STORY OF
MIND-NUMBING PAIN
UNTIL I MET MY DAVE.

MY LIFE STARTED AFTER
HER ATTACK AT THE
WAREHOUSE. I'D GIVE
HER FLOWERS. SHE GAVE
ME HER EARS.

MARTIN WAS
A MESS.

SHE MUST'VE LOVED
ME EVEN THEN.
DON'T KNOW HOW
SHE WAS ABLE TO PUT
UP WITH MARTIN'S
MELANCHOLY.

SHE WATCHED
MARTIN DIE,
AS I WAS
BEING BORN.

OH YEAH... I WAS
BORN IN HELL.

MARTIN HAD
LEFT ME WITH
A LOT OF CRAP
TO CLEAN UP.

SHARON, MY EX,
WASNT TOO HAPPY
ABOUT LOSING A
PERFECTLY GOOD
WHIPPING-BOY.
STILL, THE DIVORCE
WENT MUCH
SMOOTHER THAN
THE MARRIAGE.

DINI WAS
MY GUARDIAN
ANGEL.

SHE HELPED ME
TO FIND MY OWN
BEAUTY.

NOT JUST MY
BODY... MY MIND
AND SOUL TOO.

IT DIDNT EVEN
OCCUR TO ME
TO READ
BAUDELAIRE
BEFORE.

DINI WAS
BRILLIANT AND
BEAUTIFUL...

...AND IN PAIN.

THE SCAR THAT
BOOTS GAVE
HER WAS ONLY
A TWO-INCH
GASH ON HER
FOREHEAD.

SHE SAID IT MADE HER
FEEL LIKE JOHN MER-
RICK... THE ELEPHANT
MAN, YA KNOW?

MARTIN HAD
ALWAYS LIVED TO
SEE HIMSELF DIE.

I WAS
DIFFERENT.
I LIVED TO
SEE BOOTS
DIE.

I DIDNT TELL
DEATHWISH
THAT PART.

I DIDNT
HAVE TO.



EXIT 14 ON THE 909 FREEWAY.

THE LEGENDARY HOUSE OF BOOTS



A LOT OF THE QUEENS IN TOWN BELONG TO HOUSES. THEY HOLD BALLS, WEAR EXPENSIVE CLOTHES, AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER AS A SURROGATE FAMILY.



THE GIRLS THAT RUN THE HOUSES ARE CALLED MOTHERS.

BOOTS WAS A MUTHUH.

TME WAS WHEN HE WAS SATISFIED WITH JUST KILLING THE SHE-MALES THAT WALKED THE PIER.

GUESS HE STARTED TO FIND SERIAL MURDER TO BE TOO PEDESTRAIN.

BOOTS WAS AN ARTIST.

HE HAD A MESSAGE TO DELIVER.

DERIVATIVE.

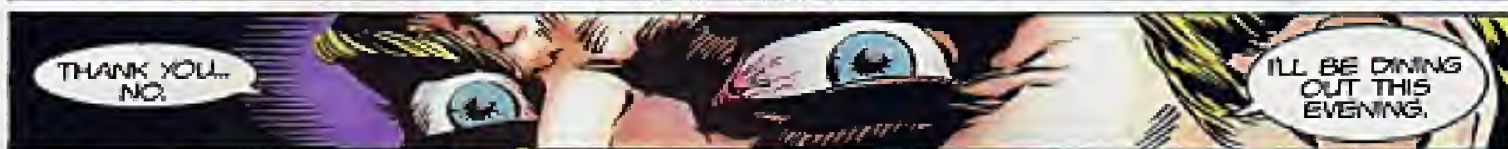


IF YOU WERE ONE OF HIS KIDS, YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SCREW UP, YA KNOW?



THE SEPULCHRAL SCULPTURES OF THE HOUSE OF BOOTS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE "THE BOMB."

THE GUY WAS ON A MISSION.





MAXIMUM SECURITY,
MY ASS.



IF DEATHWISH HAD
STAYED PUT, IT WAS BECAUSE
HE CHOSE TO.

MAYBE I'D GIVEN
HIM A REASON TO
CHANGE HIS MIND.



MAYBE HE WAS LOOKING
FOR ONE. I DUNNO.



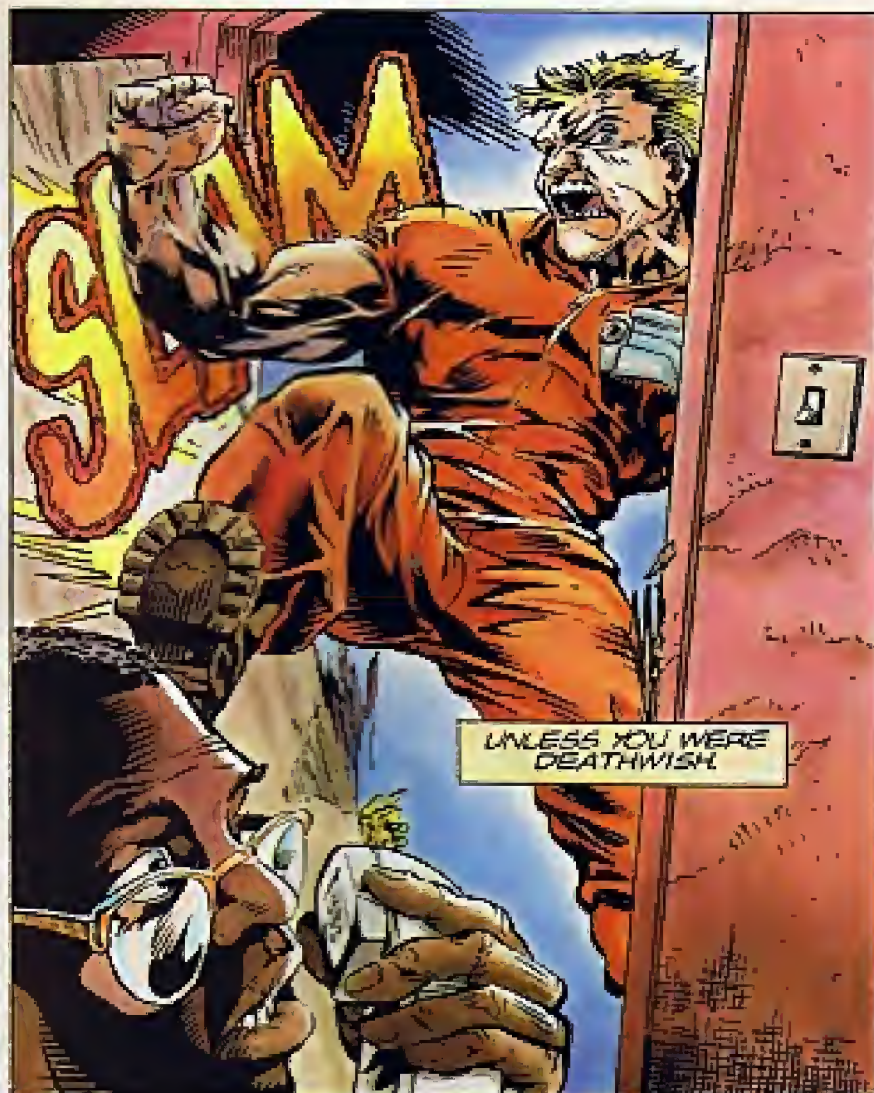
GUESS IT'S RARE TO
FIND A MAN WHO
LOVES HIS WORK.



WHATEVER..

HE WAS GOOD
AT HIS JOB.





I WAS HAVIN' A
QUIET DINNER WITH
MY BABY TIMES LIKE
THAT WERE GETTING
FEWER AND
FARTHER BETWEEN.
THE CASE WAS
ALWAYS THERE, HELL,
I WAS BORN ON THE
CASE-- WONDERIN'
IF I'D DIE WHEN IT
WAS ALL OVER--

367 OGDEN AVENUE,
SACHEM CITY.

HOME.

HEY,
MORT!
WHAT'S
WITH THE
PUSS?

'MORT' --SHE LIKED TO CALL ME
THAT WHEN I WAS GEEKING.

OH --NOTHING,
DINI, DINNER'S
WONDERFUL--
I JUST--

I DUNNO--

WHATEVER,
HORT.

'HORT' --I MUST'VE BEEN
GEEKIN' UP A STORM.

WATCHIT,
BITCH!

WHO'RE
YOU CALLIN'
BITCH, YA
MESS!

NOW EAT
YOUR EGG
FOO YOUNG,
BEFORE I
SLAP YOU
AROUND!

ASSAULTING
AN OFFICER?

I COULD
LOCK YOU
UP FOR
THAT.

DO
YOUR WORST,
COPPER.

MY
WORST--

--SEEMED LIKE I WAS
ALWAYS LEAVING DINI
WITH A MESS
TO CLEAN UP.

GEEK.

THEY
FLASHED
ME A 911,
SWEETS, I
GOTTA
GO.

BOOTS?

BOOTS,
CALL LINDA--
I'D LIKE HER TO
STAY WITH YOU
TONIGHT.

DON'T WAIT UP,
QUERIDA MIA--
TE AMO.

I KNOW.

SKIPPER
ONLY
BEEPED ME
WHEN THE
KREPLACH
HIT THE
FAN.

THE HOUSE
OF BOOTS
WAS BACK
IN ACTION.
THE TWO
UNIFORMS
WHO PICKED
ME UP GAVE
ME THE
DOPE ON
THE LATEST
KILLING.

A REAL
BLOODBATH.

BAD
ENOUGH
NEWS ALL
BY ITSELF.
BUT THERE
WAS MORE.

DEATHWISH
WAS OUT.

HE ESCAPED
BROOKHAVEN
WITHOUT
FIRING A
SHOT. ALL
THE PRISON
GUARDS
WERE STILL
ALIVE.

IT TOOK FOUR
OFFICERS TO PRY
THE GUN LOOSE
FROM HARRY "THE
HAMMER'S" GRIP.

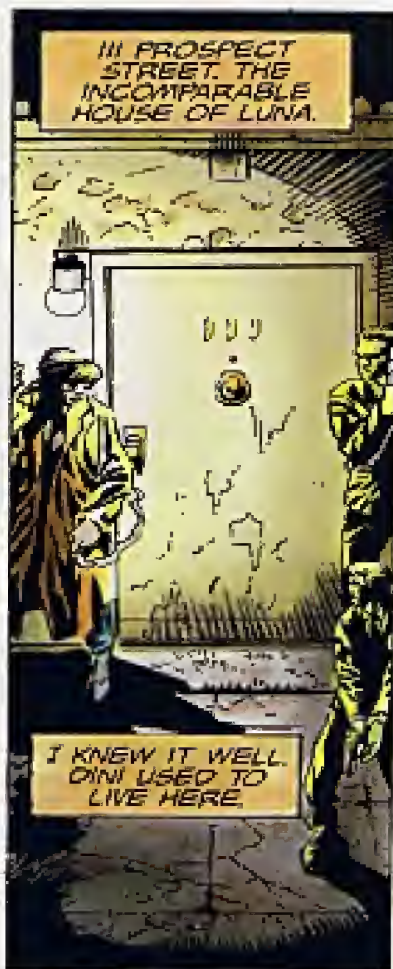
THEY FOUND HIM UNDER
HIS DESK BABBLING LIKE A
LUNATIC ABOUT EVIL SPIRITS.

NO LEADS AS TO
DEATHWISH'S WHERE-
ABOUTS. OR WHY HE
DECIDED TO ESCAPE
AFTER A YEAR OF BEING
A MODEL PRISONER.

I KNEW WHY.

GODDESS
FORGIVE ME

DEATHWISH
WAS ON
THE CASE.



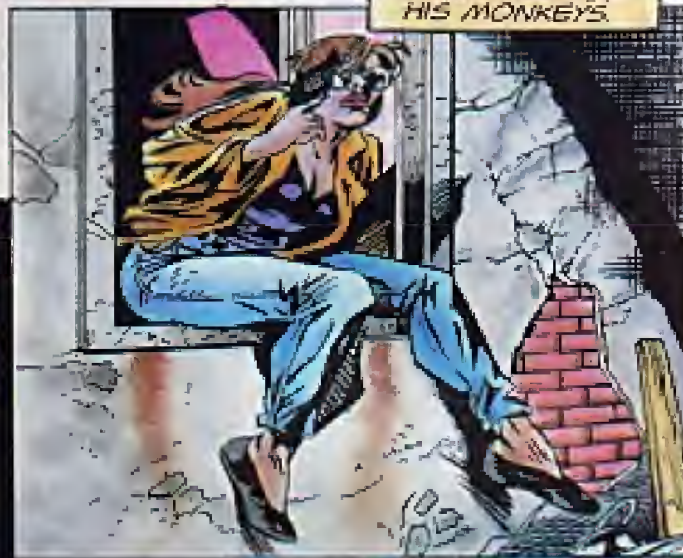
BODY MAKE-UP, THEATRICAL LIGHTING-- HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO SET UP THIS TWISTED LITTLE TABLEAU?



LONG ENOUGH.



NO BOOTS, BUT I'D SETTLE FOR HIS MONKEYS.



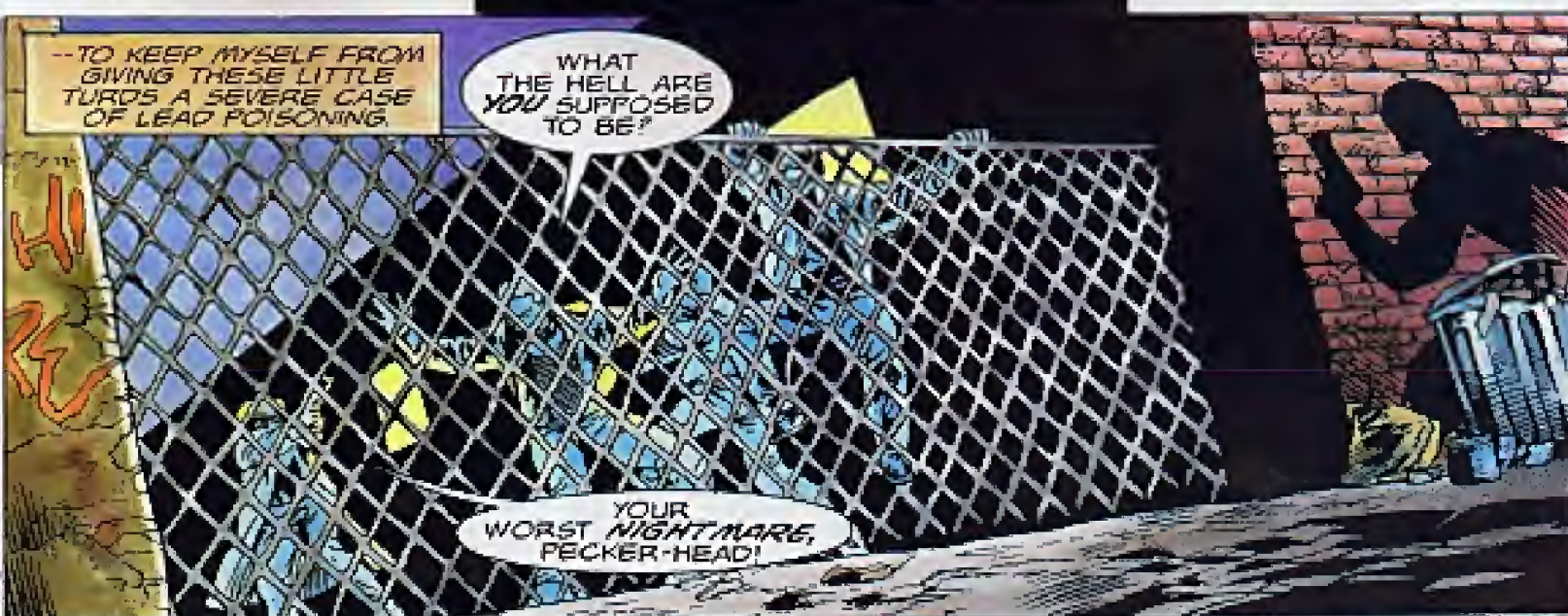
YA KNOW SOMETHING? IT TOOK A WHOLE LOT OF SELF-CONTROL--



--TO KEEP MYSELF FROM GIVING THESE LITTLE TURDS A SEVERE CASE OF LEAD POISONING.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?

YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE, PECKER-HEAD!



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
TO REMAIN SILENT!

THONK

ANYTHING YOU
SAY CAN, AND WILL,
BE USED AGAINST
YOU IN A COURT
OF LAW!

KRAW

IF YOU
CANNOT AFFORD
AN ATTORNEY,
THE COURT WILL
PROVIDE YOU
WITH ONE.

YOU HAVE
THE RIGHT TO AN
ATTORNEY, AND TO
HAVE THAT ATTORNEY
PRESENT AT YOUR
QUESTIONING!

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
THESE RIGHTS
AS I HAVE
EXPLAINED
THEM TO
YOU?

JESUS,
RAH! YOU
TRYIN' TO KILL
THESE GUYS?

WISH I
COULD.

OOOOCH,
MARISA---



ADAM BLAUSTEIN writer • YVES FEZZANI plot assist • J. H. WILLIAMS III penciller
JIMMY PALMIOTTI inker • J. BROWN painted color • JOSEPH DANIELLO letterer • DWAYNE McDUFFIE editor



THE FIRST HUNDRED ARE THE TOUGHEST

This month we celebrate the most solemn of holiday events — Milestone's 100th ON-TIME ISSUE, (ICON #2011). This special issue has NO enhancements, other than a great story by Dwayne, and M.D. Bright giving up some pages for ChrisCross and John Paul Leon to pencil! Oh, and some guest appearances by Hardware, Static, Wise Son and some prominent citizens of Dakota! You don't NEED anything more.

Upon reflection, we can only say we made it this far on the backs of some of the best talent in the industry, from the regular crew — Denys, Dwayne, M.D. Bright, ChrisCross, Ivan Velez, Jr., John Paul Leon, Robert L. Washington III, J.J. Birch, Willfred, John Rozum and Humberto Ramos, to name but a few — to those who lend their talents intermittently — Romeo Tanghal, Bill Sienkiewicz, Mike Manley, Jimmy Palmiotti, Bob Smith, Walter Simonson and John Byrne, to name but another few.

Let us not forget the backstage crew, the guys and gals whose sweat ran only AFTER the pencils, inkers, letterers and color painters were through, namely the production and support staff. And of course, you, the reader, must share the blame, too. You know who you are.

FAMILIAR NEW FACES

As long as we're looking back, let us return to September of 1992 when a bright, wide-eyed Christine Gilliam joined a budding Milestone as Office Manager. Recently, Christine, who brought more than her sardonic wit and organizational prowess to the job, was promoted to Manager of Corporate Communications. In addition to the smooth management of the front office, Christine is now responsible for

convention and special event planning, and press liaising. She is the epitome of finesse, whether getting the word on Milestone out to the public, or serving as gendarme to her lovely 10-year-old daughter, Chanté.

Milestone also welcomes the second promotion of Joseph Illidge from Administrative Assistant to Assistant to the President. A graduate of the School of Visual Arts and Milestone's internship program, Joe has been with Milestone since May of 1993. By October, he was a full-time staff member. Joe heard about Milestone's internship program from pal Jason Scott Jones, whom he met while hanging out at the Outerlimits, a now-defunct comic book shop in Brooklyn. "It was of great significance to my career that I was able to get in at ground level in the first Black-owned comic book company that has made the kind of impact that Milestone has," he says. Hard-working and ambitious, Joe, that rare amalgam of creativity and business sense, has already sold two SHADOW CABINET scripts to Milestone.



A step in the right direction... up!
CHRISTINE GILLIAM and
JOSEPH P. ILLIDGE.

Next month, we'll show off some of the newest additions to our ever-expanding Staff Universe!

SPEND YOUR DAKOTA NIGHTS ONLINE!

Since AMERICA ONLINE started MILESTONE ONLINE as part of DC ONLINE, there's been a

whirlwind of ACTIVITY ONLINE! In fact, there's a Milestone chat group, every Wednesday at 7pm EDT! It's called DAKOTA NIGHTS, and Milestone's own affable editor, JACQUELINE CHING, and affable colorist, J. SCOTT J., moderate it. If you have a computer with a modem, you can call AMERICA ONLINE at (800) 203-2600 and get a free DC ONLINE starter kit. Be sure to tell them that you want it because you want MILESTONE!

DEATHWISH THE FIRST

The first-ever Milestone MINISERIES, is what we mean! Writer ADAM BLAUSTEIN has made the streets of Dakota noticeably harder in a four-issue mini that starts this month. This will likely be the miniseries that has everybody talking this season. Penciller J.H. WILLIAMS III shines, firmly establishing himself as one of



DEATHWISH #1

the brightest new talents around, while inker JIMMY PALMIOTTI and color painter J. BROWN each deliver some of the best work of their stellar careers.

The excitement that the talent involved feels for this project shows up on every page. In the Milestone tradition, this one will foil your expectations. For instance, you've probably figured out that it's a love story, right?



Look for these NEW LOGOS, starting this month! They're for STATIC AND SHADOW CABINET, but then, you probably know that.



KOBALT #7

Lacquerment; Ships November 8th WHAT ARE LITTLE BOYS MADE OF, part THREE! PRINCESS NIGHTMARE, Empress of Ten Thousand Screaming Worlds of Terror, arrives in Dakota to make life hell for all men, misogynists and STATIC alike! **DEATHWISH #1** Blaustein, Williams III, Palmiotti, Brown; ships November 8th The first Milestone miniseries! Dakota Police Lieutenant MARISA RAHM is stymied by a psychopathic serial killer until DEATHWISH, the psycho killer from HARDWARE #5-7, breaks himself out of jail to help her out! Takes one to know one! **HARDWARE POSTER** by DENYS COWAN and KENT WILLIAMS!

DECEMBER MILESTONES™

HARDWARE #22 Clay, Ramos, Rollins, Brown; Ships October 11th When ALVA recruits a brilliant young African American scientist, Curt Metcalf suspects his boss of trying to make another HARDWARE! Can there only be one? **ICON #20** McDuffie, Bright, Gustovich & J. Scott J.; Ships October 18th THE MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION, part THREE! Before ICON leaves for his home planet, he and Detective NEBRASKA MacCULLUM are going to tie up some loose ends. Guest-starring DHARMA, STATIC, PAYBACK, WISE SON, HARDWARE, ALVA and the FINAL, COMPLETE, SECRET OF THE BIG BANG! **XOMBI #7** Rozum, Birch & Giddings; Ships October 18th THE SCHOOL OF ANGUISH, part ONE! David Kim witnesses a murder-for-hire that goes horribly wrong when he crosses paths with MANUEL DEXTERITY! **BLOOD SYNDICATE #21** Velez Jr., ChrisCross; Quijano & Wrightson; ships October 25th A disastrous crackhouse raid becomes an opportunity for MASQUERADE to stab the rest of the Syndicate in the back! **SHADOW CABINET #7** Wayne, Leon, Martinbrough & Lacquerment; Ships October 25th DHARMA's double-dealing with SYSTEM brings him face-to-face with EDWIN ALVA! Plus, a guest appearance from HARDWARE! Plus, PLUS! **KOBALT #7** Rozum, Igle, Rae & Montoya; Ships November 1st BLOWTLY threatens to tear Hemingway High apart, but he didn't count on PAGE showing up — or STATIC, either! **STATIC #18** Washington III, Willfred, Stanisci & count on PAGE showing up — or STATIC, either! **STATIC #18** Washington III, Willfred, Stanisci & Screaming Worlds of Terror, arrives in Dakota to make life hell for all men, misogynists and STATIC alike! **DEATHWISH #1** Blaustein, Williams III, Palmiotti, Brown; ships November 8th The first Milestone miniseries! Dakota Police Lieutenant MARISA RAHM is stymied by a psychopathic serial killer until DEATHWISH, the psycho killer from HARDWARE #5-7, breaks himself out of jail to help her out! Takes one to know one! **HARDWARE POSTER** by DENYS COWAN and KENT WILLIAMS!

WRITE TO:

DEATHWISH

119 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

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Cover: J. H. Williams III / Noelle Giddings

NEXT ISSUE:

SOME LIKE IT... NOT!

DANIELLO



SCANNED BY
JHFRAIL DCP





NO. 2
JAN
US \$2.50
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SUGGESTED FOR
MATURE READERS



"YOU DON'T
GET IT KIDDO
THIS ISN'T A
GAME!"



MILESTONE

DEATHWISH

PAINT THE
TOWN DEAD



DANIELLO

DIRECT SALES

00211



7 61941 20392 8

THIS IS THE CITY
DAKOTA.

LIKE EVERY
MAJOR URBAN
CENTER, THERE'S
A RED LIGHT
DISTRICT.

SO CALLED ADULT
ENTERTAINMENT
OF ALL TYPES IS
AVAILABLE BOTH
LEGALLY AND
ILLEGALLY.

DRAG-BARS LIKE
AMANDA'S ALLEY
ARE PROLIFIC IN
THIS PRECINCT.

HERE, FOR THE PRICE OF A DRINK
AND A SAW-BUCK, AFTER-WORK
ADMIRERS CAN CHOOSE FROM A
WHITMAN'S SAMPLER OF TRANS-
VESTITES, TRANSSEXUALS, AND
OTHER GENDER-TRANSIENTS.



NOT ALL THE
"GIRLS"
HERE ARE
WORKING--



--BUT THE ONES
THAT DO ARE
ADEPT AT GIVING
THE APPROPRIATE
TACIT SIGNALS.



MOST ARE JUST
LOOKING TO BE
TREATED LIKE A
LADY--

--AND FINDING A
WAY TO PAY THE
RENT ON TIME.





THE GUYS ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HAVE THEIR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO.



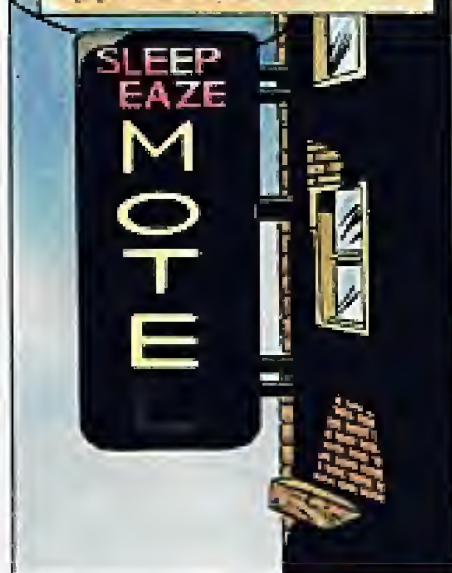
SOME OF EM, ANYWAY--



HEY, MISTER-- YOU NEED A GIRL-FRIEND?

NO.

I'D BEEN GETTING NO PLACE, WORKING THE SEAFORT SECTION OF THE CITY ON A CASE INVOLVING THE SERIAL MURDERS OF TRANS-VESTITE CALL-GIRLS--



--GIRLS JUST LIKE ANGEL.

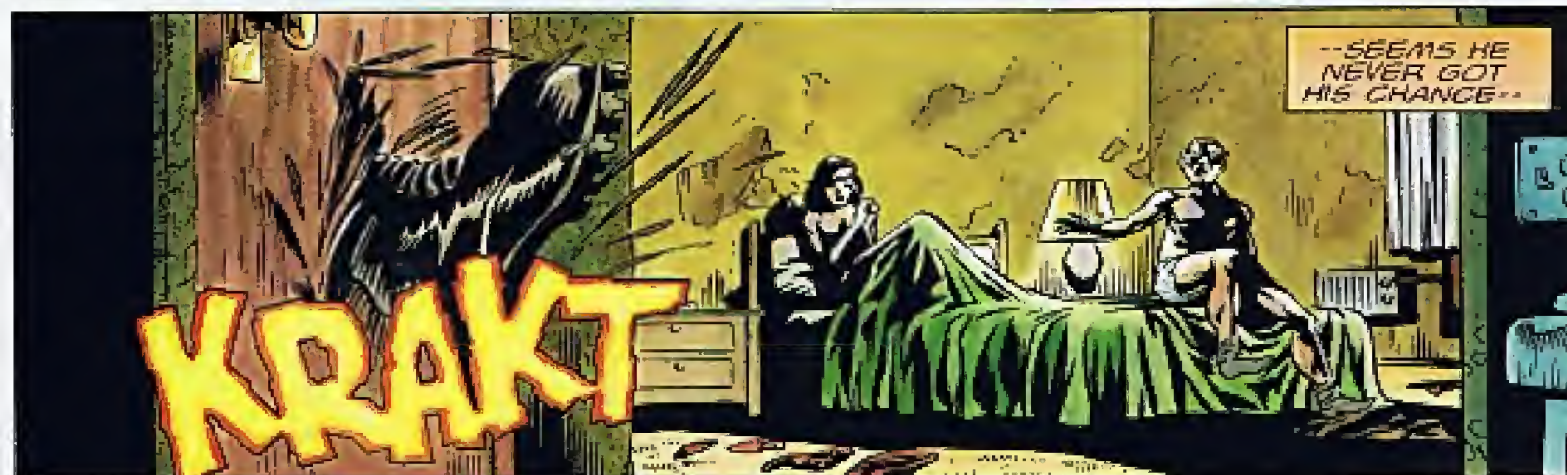
I'M KINDA NEW AT THIS, ANGEL--

I MEAN, UH--



--I'VE NEVER BEEN WITH A SHE-MALE BEFORE.

STEVE WEINTRAUB, AGE FORTY-THREE. --WIFE, TWO KIDS AND A DOG NAMED SHELBY--



--SEEMS HE NEVER GOT HIS CHANCE--



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OKAY, SKIPPER-- I GOT YOUR MESSAGE. WHATTAYA--?

OOOHH NICE LOOK, LIEUTENANT.

SORTA SARAH CONNER MEETS COLUMBO?

WELL-- IF IT ISN'T THE KING OF POP-CULTURE.

WHAT BRINGS YOU DOWNTOWN, KEV?

PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE NOT MY NEW PARTNER.



WISH I COULD, GORGEOUS--

SKIPPER-- NO.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE YOU AND ME, MARTY.



THE SUCKER WAS TESTING ME-- LIKE THEY ALL DID. WANTED ME TO LOSE MY TEMPER IN FRONT OF THE SKIP.

MARISA.



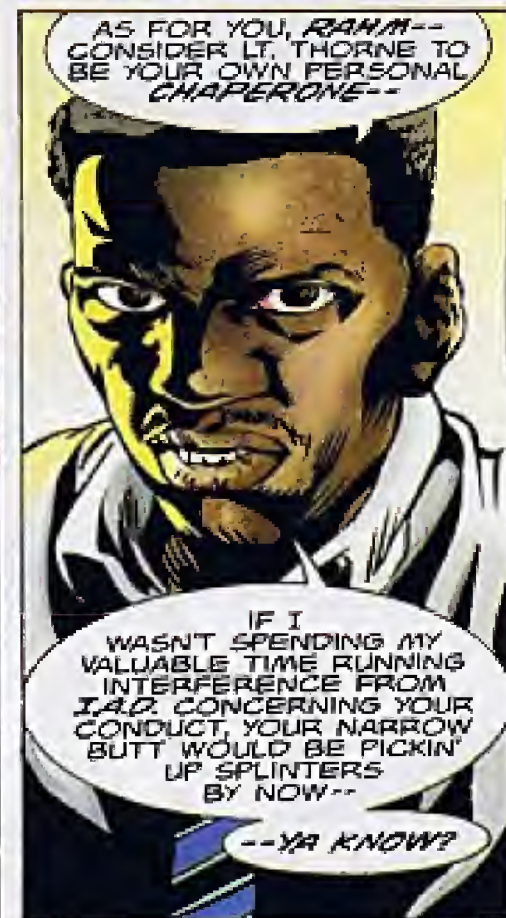
C'MON, SKIP-- WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS A HUNDRED TIMES. I WORK MUCH BETTER ALONE, YA KNOW?

I CERTAINLY DON'T NEED TO BE SADDLED WITH LT. SENSITIVITY HERE.

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY.

CUT THE CRAP, THORNE--

--AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED THIS IS *RAHM'S* CASE, AND YOU ARE ALONG TO FURNISH HER WITH ANY AND ALL ASSISTANCE-- COMPREHEND?



AS FOR YOU, *RAHM*-- CONSIDER LT. THORNE TO BE YOUR OWN PERSONAL CHAPERONE--

IF I WASN'T SPENDING MY VALUABLE TIME RUNNING INTERFERENCE FROM I.A.D. CONCERNING YOUR CONDUCT, YOUR NARROW BUTT WOULD BE PICKIN' UP SPLINTERS BY NOW--

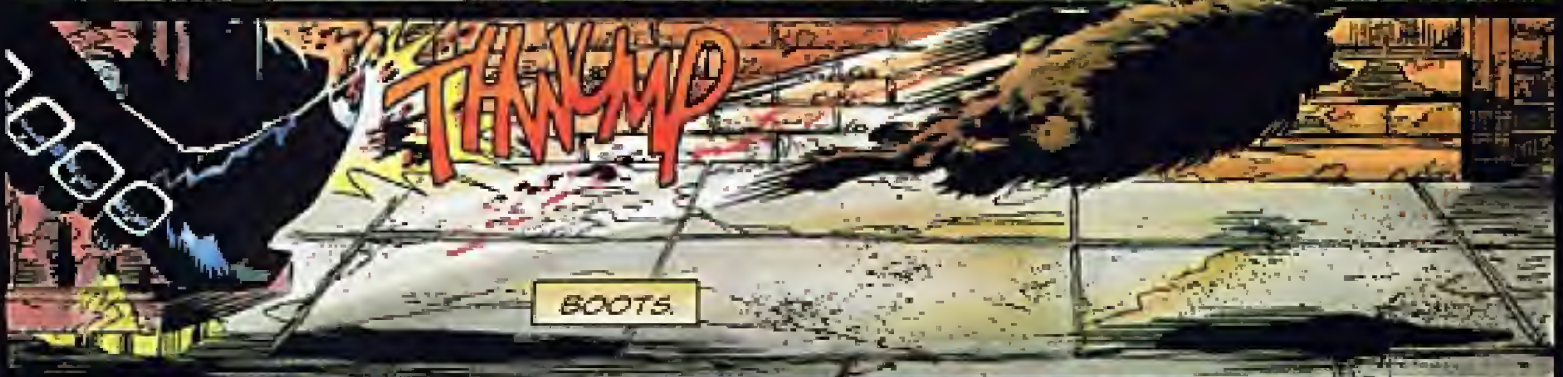
--YA KNOW?



SOMEWHERE IN THAT
DAMNED CITY, HE WAS
OUT THERE--

I'D BEEN CHASIN' HIM
FOR FOUR-- ALMOST
FIVE-- YEARS.

I MEAN-- I EVEN
KNEW THIS SICKO'S
NAME--



BOOTS.



PSYCHO-MUTHUH WAS
KILLING THE GIRLS ALL
OVER TOWN.

PSYCHO-MUTHUH PUT A
TWO INCH GASH ACROSS
MY LOVER'S FACE WITH
A SWITCHBLADE.



THE CODE OF HAMMURABI
SAID EYE FOR AN EYE--
TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.

THE CODE OF MARISA RAHM
SAID WIFE THE SMIRK OFF HIS
FACE WITH A COUPLE ROUNDS
OF CITY OWNED STEEL.



IS THAT
UN-FEMININE
OF ME?

DO YOU THINK I'M SICK?

TURNING THE CORPSES OF THE GIRLS FROM THE RENOWNED HOUSE OF DANZIG INTO 'SCULPTURE' WAS SICK!



A LOT OF THE GIRLS IN DAKOTA HAD ORGANIZED THEMSELVES INTO HOUSES-- SURROGATE FAMILIES WHERE THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE SAFE.

THEY WERENT.

HOW DO YA FIGURE THE MIND OF A KILLER?

MAYBE BOOTS THOUGHT HE WAS AN ARTIST --ON A MISSION TO BRING HIS MESSAGE TO THE WORLD.

WELL-- I WAS ON A MISSION, TOO.

THE SELF-APPOINTED SAVIOR OF THE GENDER-COMMUNITY.

WHERE'VE YA STASHED THE MOM--?

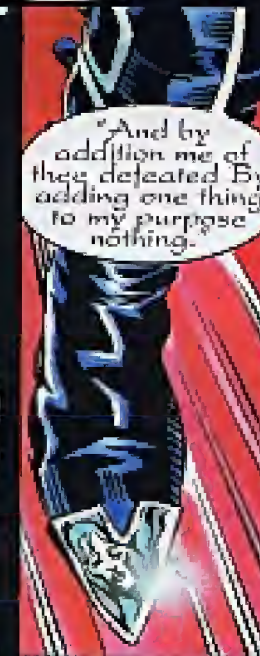
--WHERE'S DANA?

CURVE

GOT HIM LOCKED UP IN THE JOHN --PRETTY FEISTY CHICKEN, DAD.

PUNCHED OUT WOLF-BOY AND BABY BEFORE WE COULD CUFF 'IM.

I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED, MY SON--



SHORTLY AFTER
MOVING IN TOGETHER,
DINI WENT AND BOUGHT
ME A COMPUTER.



FOUR YEARS OF CASE-
NOTES, ON SMALL SLIPS
OF PAPER, TURNING UP
ALL OVER THE APART-
MENT DROVE HER CRAZY.

NOT AS CRAZY
AS THE HOURS
I WAS KEEPIN'--



HEY, LOVER!
WHEN ARE YOU
COMING TO
BED?

SORRY, BABY.
JUST GOIN' OVER
MY NOTES-- I
KNOW I'M MISSING
SOMETHING.

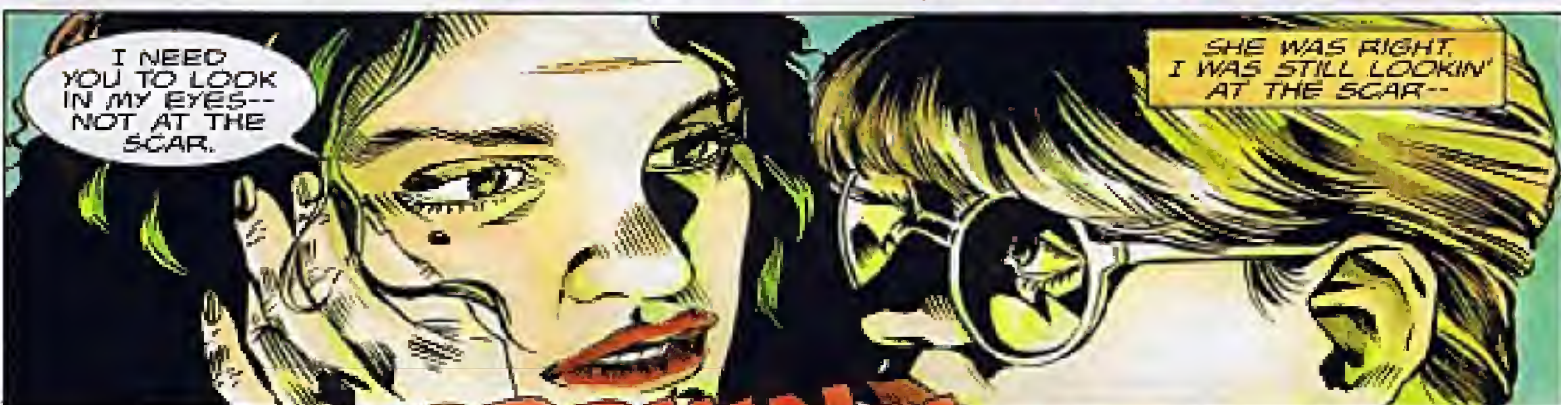
YOU'RE
MISSING
YOUR LIFE,
MADDIE!

I DON'T
NEED TO BE
AVENGED.



I NEED
YOU TO LOOK
IN MY EYES--
NOT AT THE
SCAR.

SHE WAS RIGHT.
I WAS STILL LOOKIN'
AT THE SCAR--



BBRIIING

AND I WAS STILL
ANSWERING THE
PHONE EVERY
TIME IT RANG.



BBRIIING

I WAS BORN
ON THE CASE.





THE HOARSE WHISPER
ON THE OTHER END
PULLED ME RIGHT IN.

IT WAS
HIM.

WHERE
ARE YOU?

YOU KNOW
YOU HAVE TO
TURN YOUR-
SELF IN?



ALL
IN DUE TIME,
KIDDO.

WE
HAVE TO
TALK.



GO
AHEAD,
IT'S YOUR
NICKEL.



GREAT IDEA!
I'LL SPILL MY
GUTS TO A COP
ON HER OWN
PHONE--

--FIRST
AVENUE
BRIDGE IN
ONE HOUR.
COME
ALONE.



UNARMED,
TOO, I
SUPPOSE.

YEAH,
RIGHT-- LIKE IT
MATTERS.





FIRST AVENUE
BRIDGE, 7:15 AM.

WELL
THIS IS
A HELLISH
SETTING.

TELL ME
--DO YOU
ALWAYS BRING
YOUR GIRLS TO
SUCH *NICE*
PLACES?

GLIBNESS
DOESN'T
BECOME
YOU, KIDDO.

THE EVENTS
SURROUNDING
YOUR CASE ARE
FAST REACHING
THEIR APEX.

THE TIME
HAS COME
FOR YOU TO
EXERCISE FAR
STERNER
MEASURES.

I'VE GOT
A COUPLE OF
QUESTIONS
--FIRST.

A LOT OF
JOHNS IN
THE CITY HAVE
BEEN FOUND
STIFF LATELY.
YOUR *MO*.

I
WANT TO
KNOW
WHY.

YOU
KNOW
WHY.



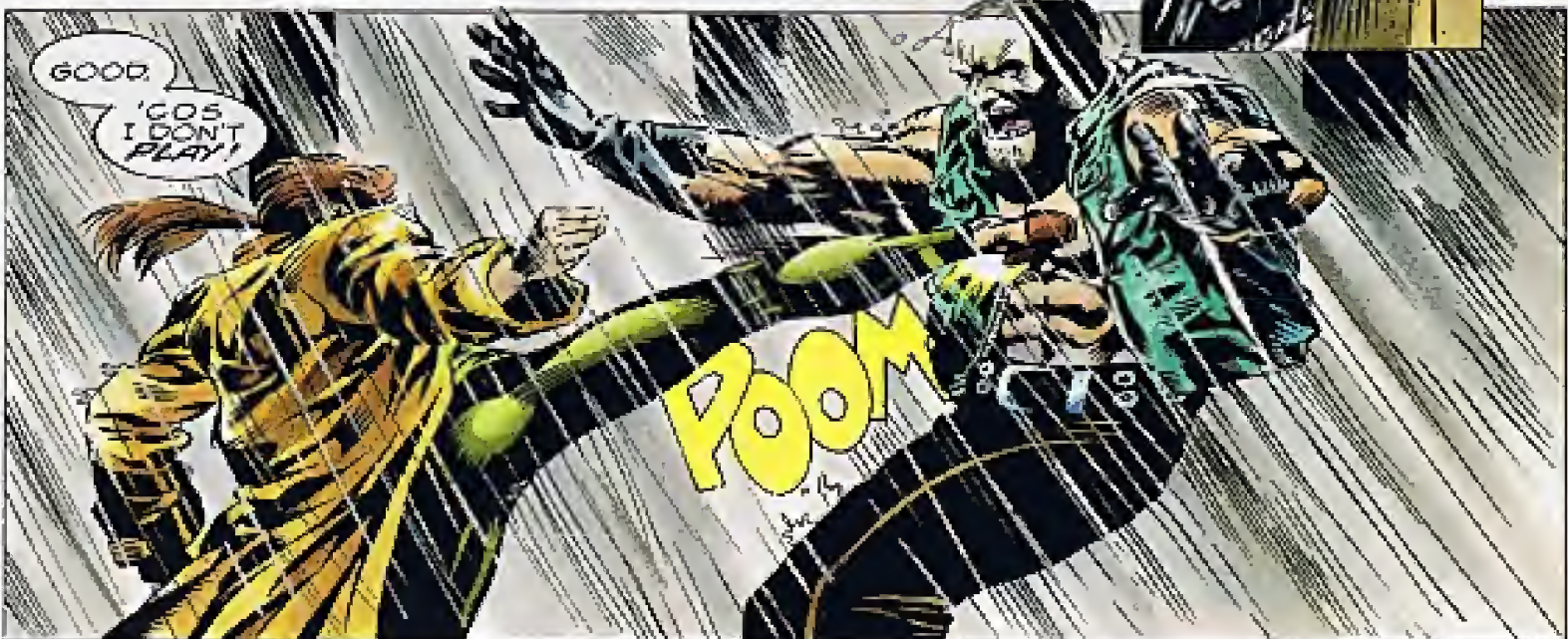
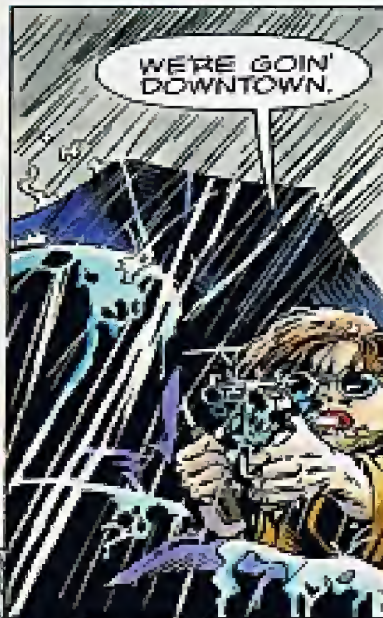
I'M ON A
MISSION.


IF YOU
OPENED YOUR
EYES TO THE
LARGER PICTURE
IT WOULD BE
YOUR MISSION,
AS WELL.



YOU
KNOW ME
VERY WELL,
MARISA
RAHM.

WE
ARE THE
SAME.





THERE'S THIS STORY IN ANCIENT GREEK TRAGEDY ABOUT A GUY NAMED **PENTHEUS**.

SEEMS HE WAS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE **DIONYSIAN** RITUAL OF **SPARGISMOS** WHERE THE INITIATES USED TO LITERALLY **TEAR IT UP** ON THE DANCE FLOOR IN A BLOOD-SOAKED ORGY OF **DEATH**.

THIS **PENTHEUS** GOT IT INTO HIS HEAD TO DISGUISE HIMSELF AS A **MAENAD**, A **FEMALE** WORSHIPPER OF **DIONYSUS**, AND PASSIVELY OBSERVE THE RITUAL.

PRETTY GOOD DISGUISE. THEY MISTOOK HIM FOR THEIR **SACRIFICIAL VIRGIN**.

HIS BODY WAS **TORN APART** AND **EATEN RAW**.

TAKE IT.

BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT--?

--OR **NINET**?

HIS.

I HAD SO MUCH
SPINNIN' THROUGH MY
MIND BACK THEN.

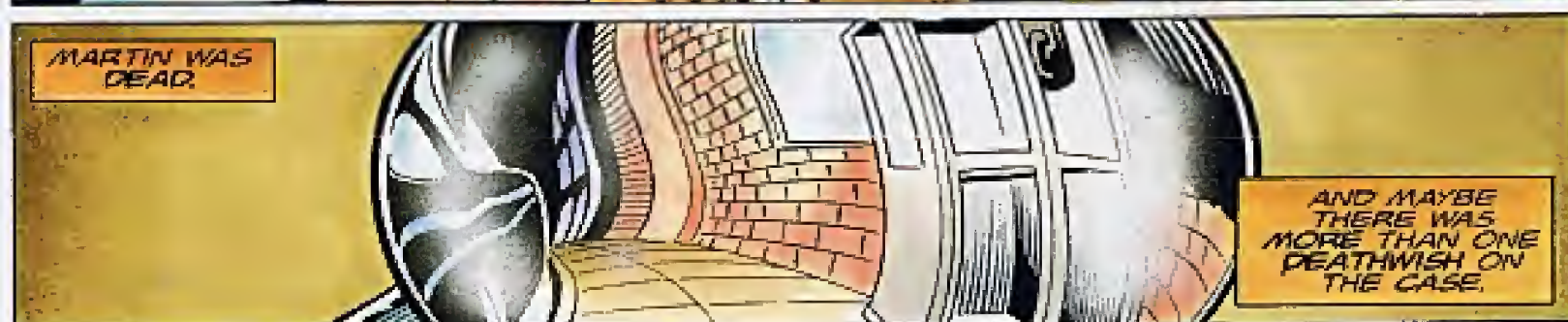
LIKE HOW TO
KEEP MY BABY OUT
OF THE STORY--

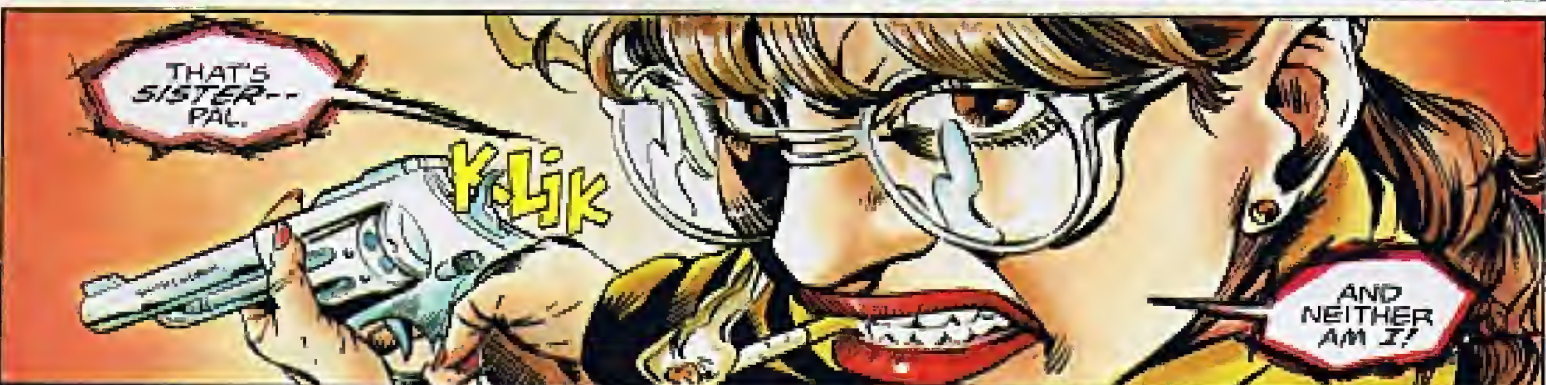
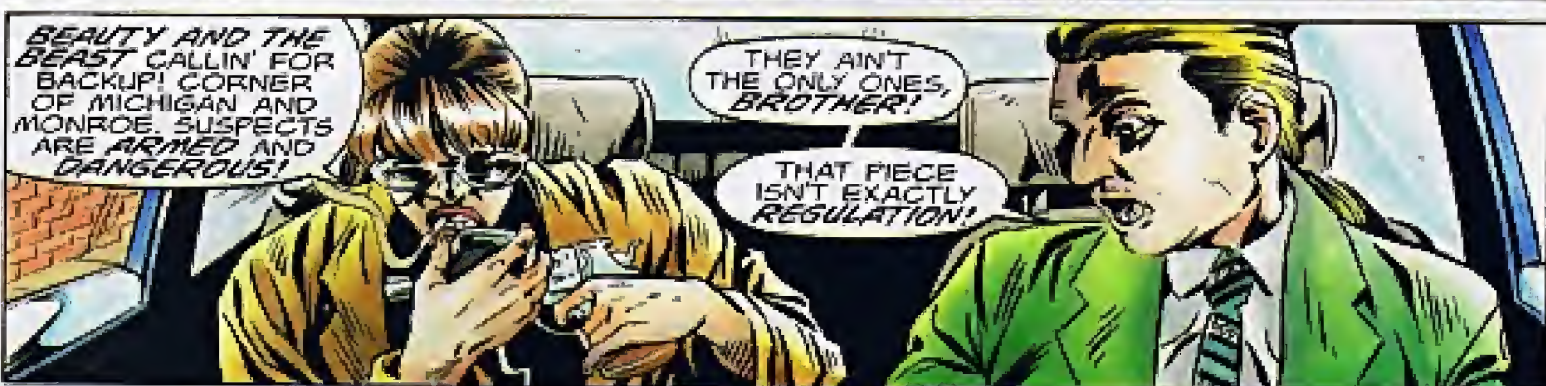
--HOW TO KEEP
THE DARK CLOUDS
OF DAKOTA FROM
GATHERIN' OVER
SACHEM CITY--

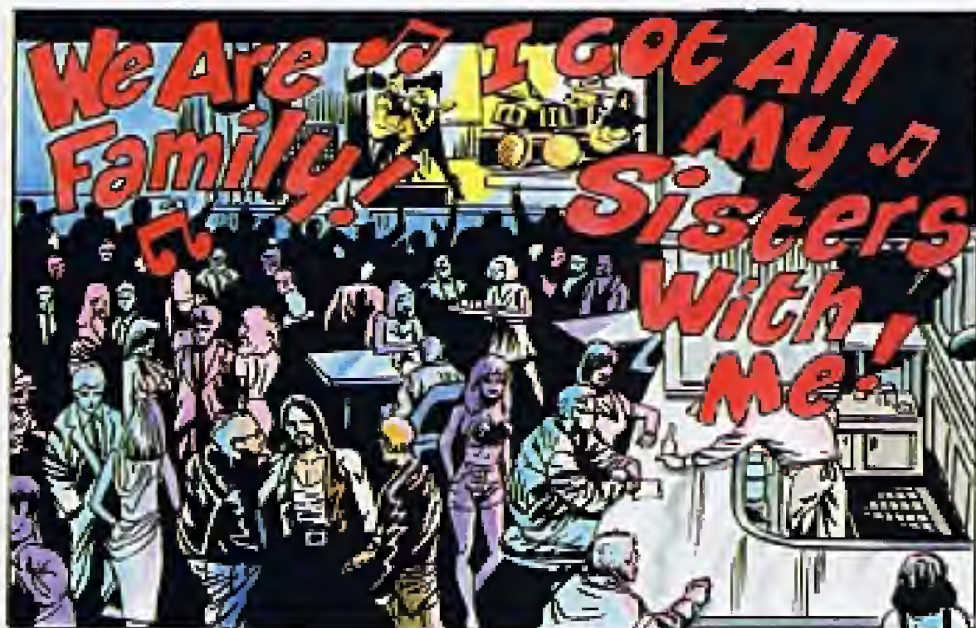
--HOW TO KEEP
MYSELF FROM
BEING TORN
APART AND
EATEN RAW.











We Are Family! I Got All My Sisters With Me!



THOUGHT I'D BLEND IN WITH THE GIRLS--



FORGOT I LOOKED LIKE 100% GRADE A PORK

WITH A SIDE-DISH OF YUTZ RIGHT NEXT TO ME.



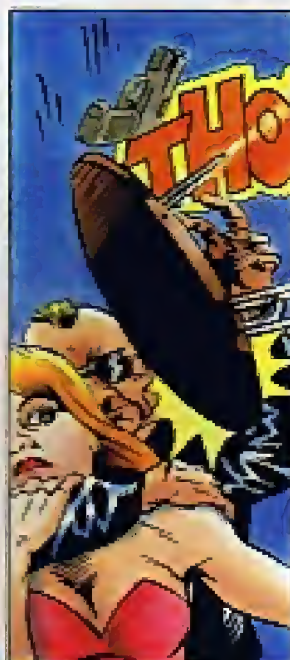
INGREDIENTS FOR A REAL SITUATION, YA KNOW?

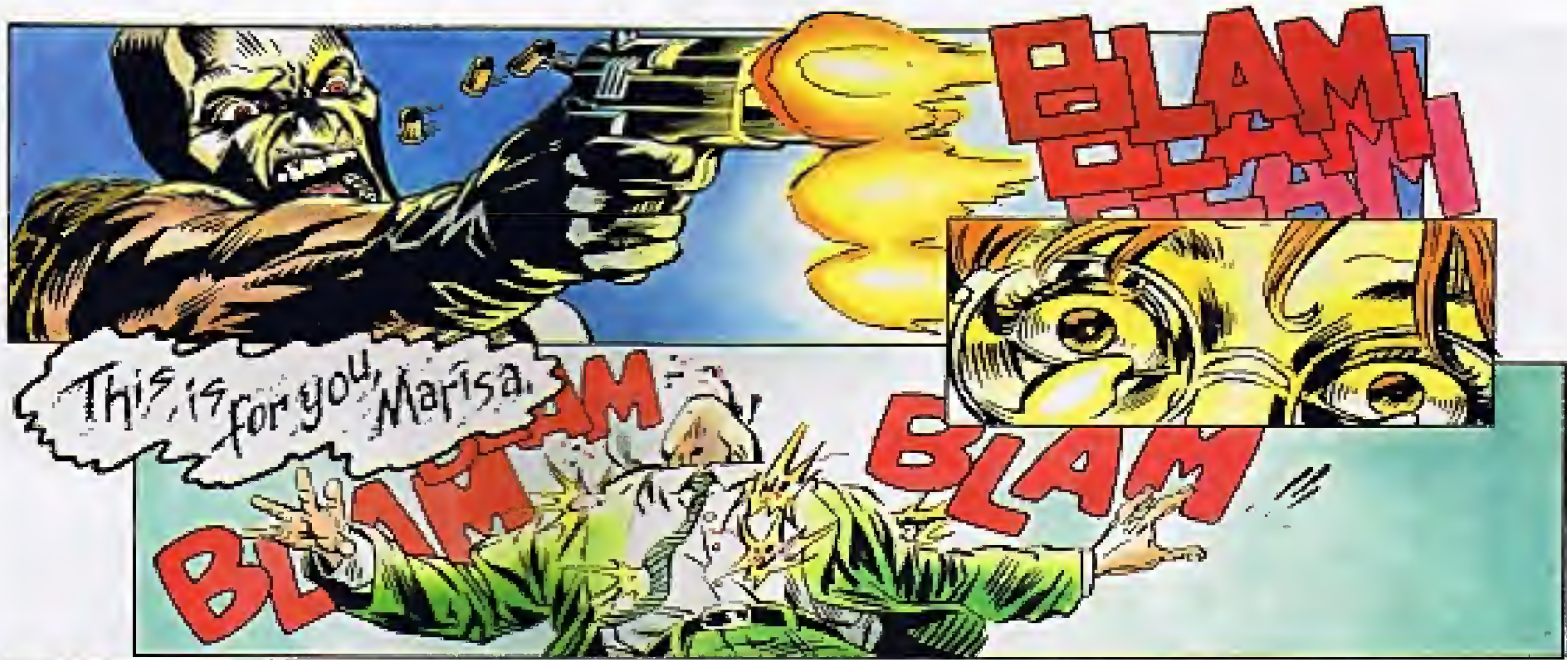


MAGNUM FELT WAY TOO GOOD IN MY HANDS.

POLICE! FREEZE!!

DIRTY MARY.





TWO LOVES I HAVE, OF COMFORT AND DESPAIR,
WHICH LIKE TWO SPIRITS DO SUGGEST ME STILL:
THE BETTER ANGEL IS A MAN RIGHT FAIR,
THE WORSEER SPIRIT A WOMAN COLORED ILL.
TO WIN ME SOON TO HELL, MY FEMALE EVIL
TEMPTETH MY BETTER ANGEL FROM MY SIDE,
AND WOULD CORRUPT ANY SAINT TO BE A DEVIL,
WOODING HIS PURITY WITH HER FOUL PRIDE,
AND WHETHER THAT MY ANGEL BE TURNED FIEND
SUSPECT I MAY YET NOT DIRECTLY TELL;
BUT BEING BOTH FROM ME, BOTH TO EACH FRIEND
I GUESS ONE ANGEL IN ANOTHER'S HELL.

YET THIS SHALL I NEER KNOW, BUT LIVE IN DOUBT,
TILL MY BAD ANGEL FIRE MY GOOD ONE OUT.



ADAM BLAUSTEIN writer • YVES FEZZANI plot assist
J. H. WILLIAMS III penciller • JIMMY PALMIOTTI inker
J. BROWN painted color • JOSEPH DANIELLO letterer • DWAYNE MCDUFFIE editor



WRITE TO: THE COMPANY LINE
MILESTONE MEDIA INC. 119 WEST 23RD STREET
SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

MILESTONE'S NEXT GENERATION

MILESTONE'S not just getting better, it's getting BIGGER! Since we began almost two years ago, some of the best and brightest young minds in the industry have been drawn to us like flies to the substance of your choice. Here are the latest bunch to alight on us:

• **MARK W. BENNETT** - The new guy in Production isn't new at all. Mark's been assisting in Editorial for months, but he made



Mari and Joe M.

aged to switch to the NEW new position just as we went to press! He's a graduate of the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan and a recipient of the John Johnson Award for Media Excellence. Now, he's kept busy with last-minute art corrections and any other production work that needs doing. Mark is another graduate of our internship program.

• **MARI HASHIMOTO** made a switch, too. From out of the ranks of our internship program came Mari to assist Christine the mighty Communicator, but she's already moved over to become the new Mark W. Bennett for Editorial! She is now the new

Editorial Assistant. She is also a recent graduate of Oberlin College where she double majored in English and Women's Studies.

- **JOSEPH G. MALONEY** - When Joseph Hodge, Assistant to the President and Administrator extraordinaire, needs something done, Joseph's the one to do it. Joseph's major at Kingsborough College was pre-med, but he's finding that there's a lot of doctoring in a supply requisition, too!
- **JOSEPH DANIELLO** - Hardly a new face, Joe has been making his mark as a letterer here since **STATIC** #12. His trail of hard work is about to become a trench, as he's regularly begun to design logos for us (for instance, the new



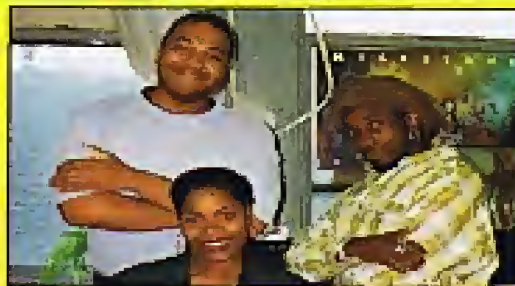
Joe D., Buttinsky Burrell, Jacquie

SHADOW CABINET, **DEATHWISH** and **HOLOCAUST** logos.) Look for his coloring job on **DEATHWISH** #2, too! Joe is a proud graduate of the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art.

(Even more importantly, Joe's living proof that one out of every five people in the office is named Joe. This has been true since the very beginning. While Joes are sorely underrepresented elsewhere in this industry, we're proud to have more than our share at Milestone. But then, our Joes are the good ones.)

• **FELICIA CARTRELL** - Our new receptionist mans the phones and wards off aggressive salesmen. Multitalented as all of our new hires are, Felicia is also a licensed hair stylist, a model (you'll see her in **ESSENCE** magazine), and a junior at York College majoring in psychology.

• **JACQUELINE SHACKELFORD** - Artist extraordinaire, Jacquie assists Creative Director Denys Cowan. She's a graduate of Pratt Institute, with an emphasis in illustration, and concentration on oil painting, sculpting and collage art. Jacquie's creative contributions are manifold. You may not have seen her work in any comics, but



Burrell, Felicia, Mark

her hand is in everything else — letterhead, business cards, trading cards, et cetera.

• **ANDREW BURRELL** - You've seen color assistant Burrell's work on **WORLDS COLLIDE**, **XOMBI** #5, and the outstanding covers of **HARDWARE** #20 and **BLOOD SYNDICATE** #19. Burrell is not only a fast learner, but a talented illustrator in his own right. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Burrell's easy charm makes him a pleasure to work with. It's almost as good as if he were named Joe!

SOMEWHERE ON THIS PAGE

—there's a picture of the new **HARDWARE** poster, by **DENYS COWAN**, **KENT WILLIAMS** and **RICHARD ORY**! It's the thing to seek out! Not to mention, we're appalled that we didn't show a picture of it last month.



HARDWARE FOR SALE! (Poster-wise)



FLAVOR OF THE M.D. BRIGHT COVER MONTH: XOMBI #8!

JANUARY MILESTONES.

□ **HARDWARE** #23 Ships November 15th "TRUST NEVER SLEEPS" heats up, when **HARDWARE** is up against a **SYSTEMATIC** with a message! □ **ICON** #21 Ships November 22nd **THE MOTHERSHIP CONNECTION** concludes when **ICON** checks out, leaving a bewildered and very pregnant **ROCKET** to fend for herself! □ **XOMBI** #8 Ships November 22nd **THE SCHOOL OF ANGUISH**, part TWO! **BLISTER ED**, a fiery construct of words spoken in anger, has something to say to **DAVID KIM**! □ **BLOOD SYNDICATE** #22 Ships November 29th **KWAJ**'s mortally wounded! **MOTHER** needs a dupe, and finds **MASQUERADE**! □ **SHADOW CABINET** #8 Ships November 29th The abandoned Cabinet ops battle on, while **DHARMA**'s new recruit, **STARLIGHT**, starts blasting! □ **KOBALT** #8 Ships December 6th A small-time crook may be **ST. CLOUD**'s bait to lure **KOBALT** into a deadly trap. Featuring new penciller **ERIC BATTLE**, and a guest appearance by **HARDWARE**, who shows up to plug his poster! □ **STATIC** #19 Ships December 6th As Dakota becomes a war zone of anti-gay violence, **STATIC** finds himself in a fiery confrontation with the **SONS OF ODIN**, and one of his oldest enemies! Featuring new series writer **IVAN VELEZ, JR.** □ **DEATHWISH** #2 Ships December 6th As Police Lt. **MARISA RAHM** comes closer to solving the grisly serial killings, **DEATHWISH**'s escape from prison makes him a suspect!

WRITE TO:

DEATHWISH

119 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 409
NEW YORK, NY 10011

MILESTONE MEDIA, INC.
DEREK T. BINGLE, PRESIDENT
DWAYNE McDUFFIE, EDITOR IN CHIEF
GENYS B. COWAN, CREATIVE DIRECTOR
MATT WAYNE, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
ADAM BLAUSTEIN, PRODUCTION MANAGER
JACQUELINE CHING, ASSISTANT EDITOR
JASON SCOTT JONES, COLOR EDITOR
CHRISTINE H. GILLIAM, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
JOSEPH ILLIDGE, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
ALLEN A. EPPS, C.P.A., ACCOUNTING SERVICES
BOB STEIN, LEGAL SERVICES

Cover: J. H. Williams III / Joseph Daniello

NEXT ISSUE: DAKOTA IS BURNING



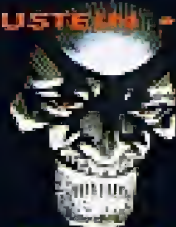
SCANNED BY
JHFRAIL DCP





3
FEB

BLAUSTEIN • WILLIAMS III • PALMIOTTI



"GETTING
INSIDE THE
MIND OF A
NUT IS
DANGEROUS
BUSINESS"

US \$2.50
CAN \$3.50
UK £1.50



DEATHWISH

KNOCKIN' BOOTS

WANTED:
DEAD OR ALIVE

A SLIGHT
CASE OF
OVER
BOMBING

UCK
THE
GOLDEN
RULE

WHAT?

THIS GUY
LULLY

WHY?

THE NEEDLE

I WAS HERE
GO YOU

FEAR


SYNCHRO
TURE

NO BLOOD

RIP

NOR
NOE





HOW CAN I THEN RETURN IN HAPPY FLIGHT
THAT AM DEBARRED THE BENEFIT OF REST,
WHEN DAY'S OPPRESSION IS NOT EASED BY NIGHT,
BUT DAY BY NIGHT AND NIGHT BY DAY OPPRESSED,
AND EACH, THOUGH ENEMIES TO EITHER'S REIGN,
DO IN CONSENT SHAKE HANDS TO TORTURE ME.

--WM. SHAKESPEARE



THESE *BOOTS* WAS MADE FOR *STALKING*. 'CO'S STALKING'S WHAT HE DO!

ONE AT THESE DAYS THIS *BOOTS* IS GONNA *STALK* RIGHT AFTER YOU!

WATCHA DOIN, MISTER *DEATHWISH*?

LET'S CALL IT *JOB TRAINING*.

NANCY DREW!

HERE'S SOME ROSES FOR YOU--

WHAT DOES THIS *MEAN*!?

MEANS YOU'RE *HIRED*!

WELCOME TO *HELL*!



HAPPY
CHANUKAH,
KIDDO!

I
BROUGHT
YOU A NEW
TOY!

BLOW
MY BRAINS
OUT!

OR BLOW
OUT YOUR
OWN--

"YOUR DECISION."



POLICE!
FREEZE!!

WHAT
DO YOU WANT,
MARTIN?

I'M
TAKIN' BACK
OUR BODY,
MARISA!

AS A
COP, YOU'RE
A WASHOUT!
RULES WERE MADE
TO BE FOLLOWED
OR SOCIETY
COLLAPSES--

--AND
AS FAR AS I'M
CONCERNED YOUR
VERY EXISTENCE
BREAKS THE
RULES.

YOU HAVE
THE RIGHT
TO REMAIN
SILENT--

REMEMBER
HOW SCARED YOU
WERE WHEN YOU SAW
ME IN THE MIRROR...
LIKE YOU WERE
GONNA DIE

I
CREATED
YOU, MARTIN.
YOU WERE ONLY A
FRONT-MAN FOR
A WORLD THAT
WASN'T READY
FOR ME.

TOOOOOO
RIGHT.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM





DAKOTA IS BURNING

ADAM BLAUSTEIN
writer

YVES FEZZANI
plot assist

J. H. WILLIAMS III
pencliller

JIMMY PALMIOTTI
inker

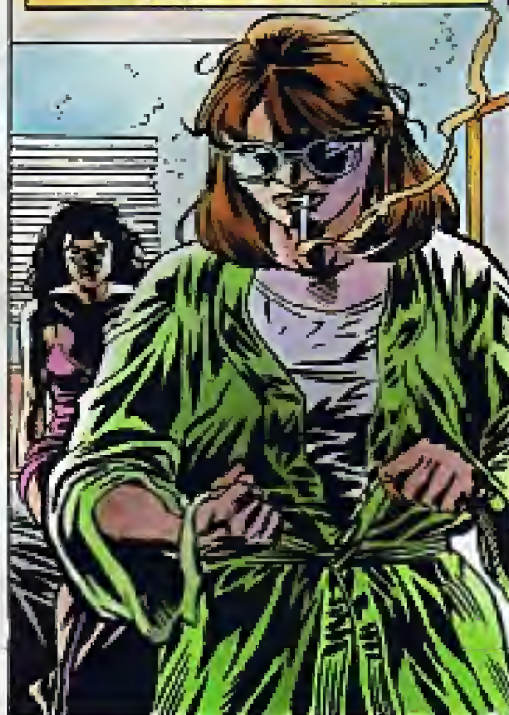
J. BROWN
painted color

JOSEPH DANIELLO
letterer

DWAYNE MCDUFFIE
editor

GIVE UP THE CASE SHE
REALLY THOUGHT IT WAS
THAT SIMPLE.

MY LOVE KNEW EVERYTHING
ABOUT ME. WE SHARED SO
MUCH THAT WAS SIMILAR.
SOCIETY CALLED US "PRE-
OPERATIVE TRANSEXUALS,"
THO' NEITHER OF US EVER
INTENDED TO BE "POST."



WE WERE JUST TWO GIRLS
FORCED TO GROW UP AS
BOYS-- WITH ENOUGH GRIT TO
TURN AROUND AND TELL THE
WORLD TO SCREW ITSELF.



MY LOVE KNEW
EVERYTHING ABOUT ME--
EXCEPT ONE THING.

SHE WASN'T A
GAY, YA KNOW?

WHEN I WAS STILL
LT. LEON MARTIN
RAHM IT WAS THE
ONLY PART OF ME
THAT WAS HONEST.

THE SEAPORT MURDER CASE INVOLVING THE
SERIAL MURDERS OF PRE-OP GAY-GIRLS HAD
BEEN MY BABY FOR ALMOST FIVE YEARS NOW.
DINI WAS THE ONLY VICTIM TO SURVIVE.



SHE FELT
GUILTY ABOUT
THAT.

THE CASE
WAS DRIVING
US APART.

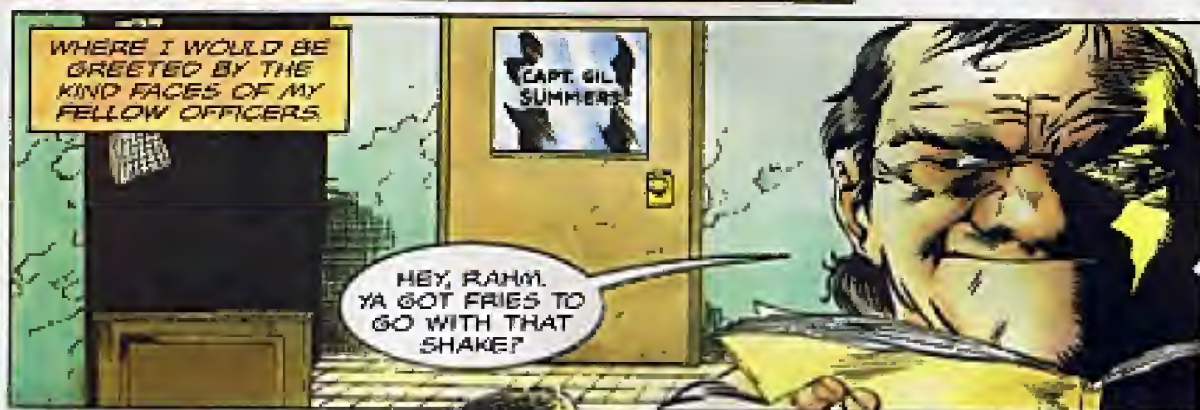
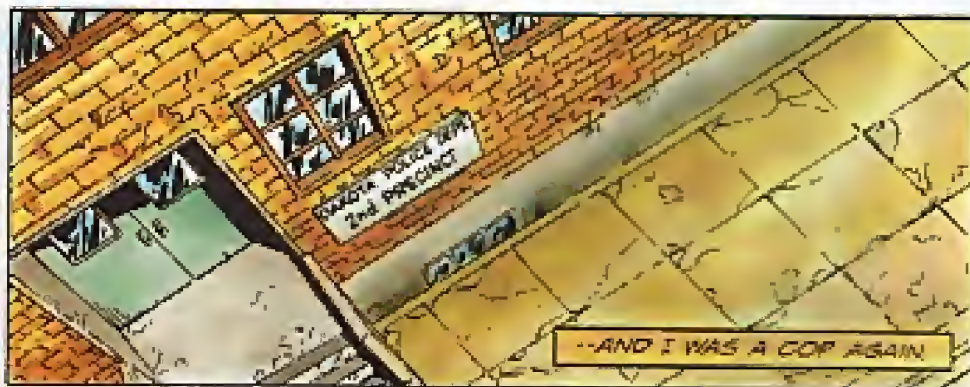


I WANTED THE
WORLD TO STOP
SPINNING. I CAME
CLOSE TO QUITTING
THE FORCE A
THOUSAND TIMES.

THEN I'D SEE THAT
DAMNED SCAR--



--AND THE PAIN
IN HER EYES--



THE SHRINKS CALL IT
GENDER DYSPHORIA.
THERE ARE AS MANY
TYPES OF IT AS THERE
ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE IT.

I HAD AN AWFUL
FEELING THAT ITS
WORST INCARNATION
WAS STALKING THE
STREETS IN A PAIR OF
STEEL-POINTED BOOTS.

IF THE SPECTRUM
OF MANKIND CAN
COVER EVERYTHING
FROM GOD TO
THE DEVIL--

--THEN I GUESS
IT CAN COVER
AN ANGEL--

I
COUNT ONLY
SIX PAIR.

--AND A BOOTS.

I
TOLD THESE
FAGGOTS
TO WATCH--

SILENCE,
GRETIN.

DO
NOT IMPUGN THE
REPUTATION OF
THESE CHERUBS.
THEY ARE ANGELS
WITH SULLIED
WINGS, AND I HAVE
TAKEN IT AS MY
CHARGE TO
RETURN THEM TO
THEIR BLISS.

Poor soul, the
center of my sinful earth
Fooled by these rebel
powers that thee array,
Why dost thou pine within
and suffer dearth,
Painting thy outward
walls so costly gay?

YOUR
NEGLECTANCE
HAS EARNED
YOU A
PROMOTION--

FROM
ARTIST TO
ART.

GETTIN' INSIDE THE MIND OF A
NUT IS DANGEROUS BUSINESS.

YOU GOTTA FIND THE
NUT INSIDE, YA KNOW?

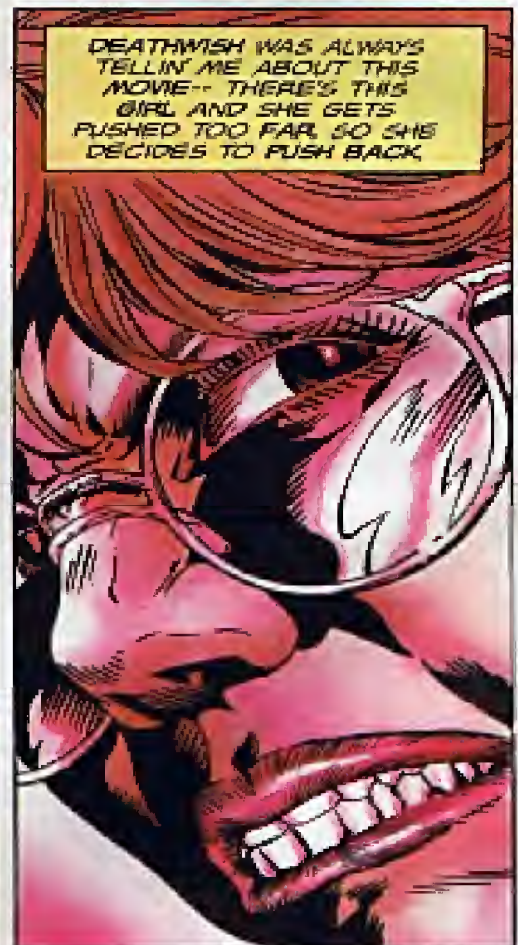
I REMEMBER HOW
FRIGHTENED MARTIN
USED TO BE THAT I
WOULD TAKE OVER--
THAT I WAS STRONGER.
THAT BASTARD KEPT ME
IN CHAINS.

THUK

I REMEMBERED HOW
OFTEN HE TRIED TO
SYMBOLICALLY KILL ME--
STUFFIN' MY CLOTHES
AND MAKEUP IN A DUMP-
STER IN AN EFFORT TO
PURGE HIMSELF OF
THE DEMON GODDESS.

'I THINKS NO FACE SO GRACIOUS IS AS MINE,
NO SHAPE SO TRUE, NO TRUTH OF SUCH ACCOUNT,
AND FOR MYSELF MINE OWN WORTH DO DEFINE
AS I ALL OTHER IN ALL WORTHS SURMOUNT.
BUT WHEN MY GLASS SHOWS ME MYSELF INDEED,
BEATED AND CHOPPED WITH TANNED ANTIQUITY,
MINE OWN SELF-LOVING WERE INIQUITY.
'TIS THEE (DINI) THAT FOR MYSELF I FRAKE,
PAINTING MY AGE WITH BEAUTY OF THY DAYS.'

WAS I OUT TO PUNISH
BOOTS-- OR MARTIN?
WAS THIS MY OWN
DEATHWISH?





MAYBE I SHOULD'VE
REPORTED THE
INCIDENT TO SKIP.



SPEND YET ANOTHER
YEAR OF MY LIFE
WITH LAWYERS TRYIN'
TO HASH OUT YET
ANOTHER SEXUAL
HARASSMENT CASE.



MAYBE THIS
YEAR IT WOULD
BE DIFFERENT.



MAYBE I JUST DIDN'T
CARE ANYMORE.



IT WAS TOUGH SAYIN'
GOODBYE TO SKIP--



--AGAIN.

SHALOM,
MARTIN.

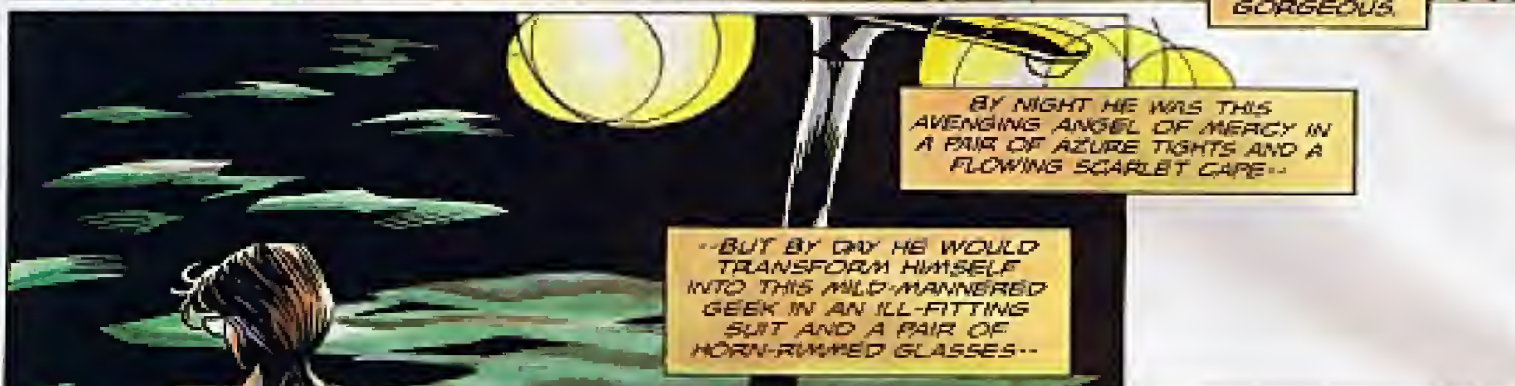


EVER HEAR OF
SUPERMAN?

IT WAS THIS COMIC
BOOK I USED TO READ
WHEN I WAS A KID.

CHAMPION
OF TRUTH
AND JUSTICE,
YA KNOW?

GODDAMNED
GORGEOUS.



BY NIGHT HE WAS THIS
AVENGING ANGEL OF MERCY IN
A PAIR OF AZURE TIGHTS AND A
FLOWING SCARLET CAPE--

--BUT BY DAY HE WOULD
TRANSFORM HIMSELF
INTO THIS MILD-MANNERED
GEEK IN AN ILL-FITTING
SUIT AND A PAIR OF
HORN-RIMMED GLASSES--

WHAT A JOKE.
SECRET IDENTITY.

I USED TO
HAVE ONE OF
THOSE. GAVE
IT UP.

GIVIN' UP THE
AVENGING ANGEL PART
WASN'T AS EASY.

GUESS I
WAS HAVIN' A
GOOD DAY.



FIGURED IT WAS TIME
I GAVE UP LIVIN' IN A
COMIC-BOOK.



TOO BAD I WASN'T
WRITIN' THE STORY

HANG ON A SECOND
I WANNA READ YOU
SOMETHING, OKAY?

IT'S AN ENTRY FROM
THE DIARY OF JAMES
GORDON STALEY--

--BOOTS

"and so I find myself at a crossroads
in my expression as an artist.

"--Art as Appropriation
versus Art as Life.

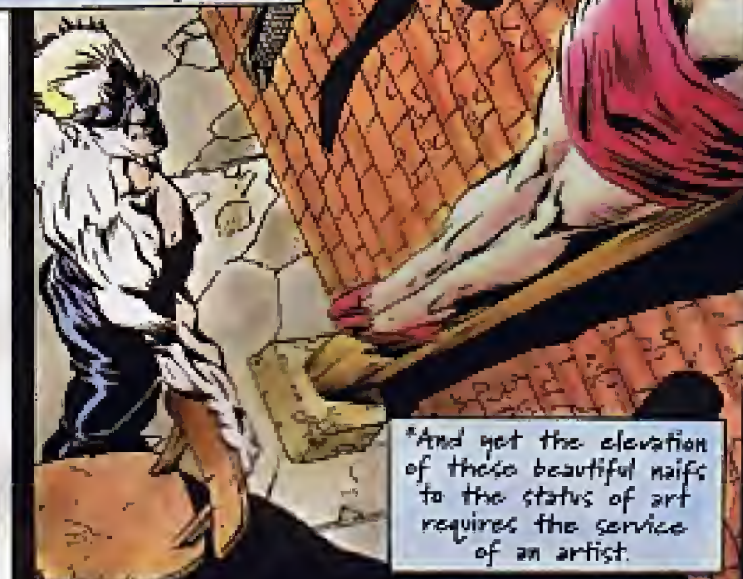
--By signing his name to
a urinal, Duchamp trumpeted
the call to artists that mere
appropriation and presentation
was all that was required to
transform the common into
the sublime--

"--Yet I find this
to be simplistic.

"--and Art is
never simple.

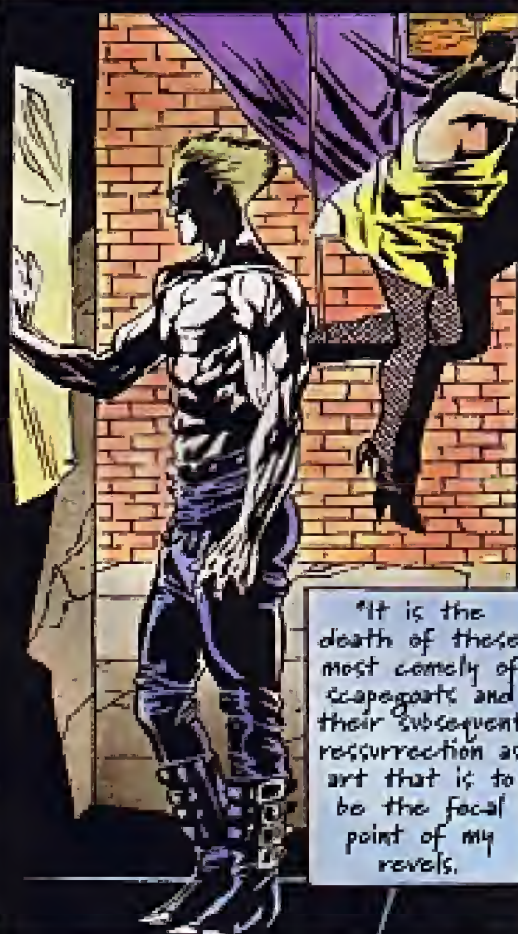
"For how can the mere proclamation that the profane is sacred suffice--

--when beauty in the form of human expression of self outstrips the base utilitarianism of it's surroundings.



"And yet the elevation of these beautiful naifs to the status of art requires the service of an artist.

"I am an artist.



"It is the death of these most comely of scapegoats and their subsequent resurrection as art that is to be the focal point of my revels.

"And so they shall come from all over the city to tonight's Jornada del Muerto.



"A drag ball to end all drag balls-- in a Dionysian rite of spraying blood and crunching bone.



"In tribute to The Diva."



THE HOUSE OF
BOOTS WAS
THROWIN' A BALL
AND ONLY THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL
WERE BEING
INVITED.



THANK THE GODDESS
FOR SLIMMIE

YOU COULD ALWAYS COUNT
ON LINDA IN A CRISIS--

Angela's Room

FINE CLOTHING FOR FINE WOMEN

--AND PICKIN' OUT A NICE
OUTFIT FOR MY DATE WITH
DINI WAS, FOR ME, A CRISIS.

THINK
SHE'LL LIKE
ME IN THIS
ONE, SLIM?

MRS.
FEM WOULD
LIKE YOU IN A
POTATO SACK,
MADDIE.

TRY
IT ON

IT'S
GETTIN'
CLOSE TO
ELEVEN,
LINDA.

NOT LIKE
DINI TO BE
LATE.

DEFINITELY
YOU...NOT!

DOESN'T
MATTER, LET'S
PAY FOR IT AND
HEAD HOME.

I'M
WORRIED.

NORMALLY,
I WOULDN'T BE
PUTTING ONE OF MY
OFFICERS OUT ON
THE STREETS SO
SOON AFTER A
SHOOTING...

CAPT. GIL
SUMMERS

GUESS RAHM'S
SAYIN' SAYONARA
HAS LEFT YOU A
MAN SHORT.

DON'T WORRY,
CHIEF. LT. KEVIN
THORNE WITH
A CLIPPED WING
IS WORTH TEN
FREAKS LIKE
MISS MARTY.

DON'T KID
YOURSELF,
THORNE.

MARISA
RAHM WAS
THE BEST.

IT'S A TEN MINUTE WALK
FROM ANGELA'S TO HOME.

THREE MINUTES AND
TWENTY-SEVEN SECONDS
IF YOU RUN.

WHEN YOU'VE BEEN
A COP AS LONG AS I
WAS, YOU LEARN TO
TRUST YOUR GUT.

MINE WAS
ON FIRE.

LOCK ON OUR
APARTMENT DOOR
HAD BEEN JIMMIED.

WAIT
HERE.

I'M
GOIN'
IN.

DINI WAS GONE.

I WASN'T
WRITING THE
STORY.



ORDER WAS GONE.

CHAOS RULED.



LINDA LOOKED LIKE THE FOSTER CHILD FOR THE BRADY BILL



SOKAY, SLIM JUST PUT DOWN THE GUN--

--AND IF YOU'RE SQUEAMISH, YOU BETTER CLOSE YOUR EYES



LOOK, DARLING, WE HAVE A SON!



DIDNT HAVE TIME FOR THE HOSPITAL



THE NOTE ON THE DOOR GAVE DIRECTIONS TO A DRAG BALL AT THE HOUSE OF BOOTS--



--AND I WAS INVITED.





FUCK ART...
LET'S DANCE!

SH!
KLIK

FOR
DEATH!
SH!

William
1996
CA

TO BE CONCLUDED



WRITE TO: THE COMPANY LINE
MILESTONE MEDIA INC. 719 WEST 23RD STREET
SUITE 405 NEW YORK, NY 10011

MORE THAN JUST THE COLORIST

JASON SCOTT JONES, who signs his name "J.Scott J.," to confuse everybody, has taken a big step up — to become our new Color Editor. He's proven himself time and again to have that unbeatable combination of talent, resourcefulness and narcolepsy that makes a great Color Assistant. He'll need to use all his ability to the fullest, though, because he's got some big shoes to fill: Those of departing Color Editor NOELLE C. GIDDINGS.

It's a good bet that we couldn't have made it this far without Noelle. Her sensibilities are all over every page of Milestone comics, and regularly drummed into Jason's head. She'll be sorely missed. But we still win; now that the life of the free lance has called out to her, she'll be doing even more of the part she likes best: Painting the books. Look for her work on the new HOLLOWCAUST miniseries and every ongoing issue of XOMBI, not to mention the Big Secret Project.

We're all going to miss Noelle, but we're also excited for Jason, and can't wait to see him in action. Like so many comics pros, he started out as an intern for Milestone!

KEEP READING THE FINE PRINT

—while Milestone presents an unprecedented Letters Column event! In anticipation of THE LONG, HOT SUMMER — our crossover riot beginning in July — every letter is a Letter of the Month! What does this mean for you? All letters that are printed between now and then will receive the attendant Letter of the Month prize — a signed copy of the issue in which it appears. At the end of the run, three lucky letter-writing winners will receive the BIG PRIZE: a LONG, HOT SUMMER poster autographed by

all the artists! Before then, you'll be hearing a lot more about this crossover that will alter the status quo in Dakota forever! So write us!

HOW TO DRAW THE MILESTONE WAY

"Draw visitors," that is. We recently had the pleasure of schmoozing with around 30 students from LAWNDSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL, in historic LAWNDSIDE, NEW JERSEY. (Seriously, Lawnside is nearly 99 percent African American with roots in the Abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad.)

We had a chance to show our guests what goes into a Milestone comic, and they got to show us some of their own drawings and comics. Not a bad way to get acquainted. We're talking about going to Lawnside for a comics workshop sometime in the spring, so it looks like the start of something major!



Denys goes Lawnside!



Chris Cross, Michelle, and students!

DESIGN O' THE FIMB!

This past November, Milestone's NOELLE C. GIDDINGS, IVAN VELEZ, JR., and CHRIS CROSS led 50 NEW YORK CITY high school students on an "exploration" of design in the comic book industry. The program, ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES: THE URBAN UNIVERSE IN COMICS, was one in a series of Design Career Days being held at Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum this fall and spring for High School students.

Ivan began with a discussion of the writer's role, Chris followed with a his view of pencilling as drama. Finally, Noelle explained color in terms of visual energy and story.

Working one-on-one with the students, the Milestone group helped participants to come up with their own comics. At the end of the day, each team presented their work, and Ivan, Chris and Noelle just may have staked a career or two!

FEBRUARY MILESTONES.

❑ **HARDWARE #24** Ships December 13th The "TRUST NEVER SLEEPS" storyline finishes off, as a renegade SYSTEMatic threatens to finish off HARDWARE and ALVA!

❑ **KON #22** Ships December 20th The search for a new Hero of Dakota forces Raquel and the new ROCKET to a desperate measure -- in fact, to the most desperate measure of ALL!

❑ **XOMBI #9** Ships December 20th. Recommended for mature readers. THE SCHOOL OF ANGUISH, part THREE! DAVID and JULIAN learn that the BELI MAH need DAVID for their dark metaphysics. Revealed at last: the meaning of the word, "XOMBI!"

❑ **BLOOD SYNDICATE #23** Ships December 27th KWAI's unleashed magic causes the members of the SYNDICATE to revert to their pre-Big Bang forms! BOOGIE-MAN'S most intimate secret is uncovered!

❑ **SHADOW CABINET #9** Ships December 27th STARLIGHT and PLUS join CAPTAIN RAY against 15 SYSTEMatics, and DHARMA leaves the group — the HARD way! DON'T peek at the last page!

❑ **KOBALT #9** Ships January 10th Whoever's trying to frame the KOBALT has caught the attentions of Detective JOE HOMILY! Meanwhile, love's in bloom when PAGE actually talks to MICHELLE!

❑ **STATIC #20** Ships January 10th STATIC's climactic appearance at the gay rights rally may be VIRGIL HAWKINS' final appearance ANYWHERE when HOTSTREAK, his oldest enemy, fires up the crowd!

❑ **DEATHWISH #3** Ships January 10th Recommended for mature readers. DEATHWISH plagues Police Lt. MARISA RAHM, while DINI falls within reach of BOOTS, the only psycho-killer worse than Deathwish!



FLAVOR OF THE MONTH:
SHADOW CABINET #9!



Michelle and Chris, looking out at South A. meeting in South Dakota 1991



LOVE 'N' DEATH

MILESTONE MEDIA, INC.
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DEATHWISH IS A FOUR ISSUE LIMITED SERIES. WRITE TO: LOVE 'N' DEATH 119 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011

ADAM SPEAKS...

Since its inception, Milestone has brought you characters written from the unique experiences of its writers. Characters designed to break the sometimes monolithic nature of the stereotypic. When Editor in Chief Dwayne McDuffie approached me with the idea of writing a mini-series I was faced with the daunting challenge of what I could bring to Milestone's already beautiful table. I decided that like all the other writers at Milestone my contribution had to be no less than the sum of my experiences. If you're reading this now, I can only assume that you've met a woman named Marisa Rahm. Like other denizens of the Milestone's Dakota universe she is more than just entertainment (though I hope that she has been that as well). Marisa Rahm, though not exactly flesh and blood, is nonetheless very real. Like real people she may be endearing to some and offensive to others. She would no more apologize for being herself than I as a writer would apologize for bringing her into the world of comics.

Could writers write what they know. While I am by no means a police officer, it can certainly be argued that Dwayne McDuffie is not a super-hero (so far as I know). Dwayne is, however, an African-American male living in the latter part of the twentieth century, and that is an experience that must color his writing. Characters like Ionn and Hardware are reflective of his experience. Marisa Rahm is reflective of mine.

The Deathwish miniseries is for me a very personal story that I truly feel could only have been published here at Milestone. From its beginnings almost a year ago as of this writing, the entire project has come together with an almost magical kind of luck. J.H. Williams III proved to be the absolute perfect choice to pencil this book (at times it seemed he read my mind). Jimmy Palmiotti's inking seemed to be wedded to J.H.'s artwork. James Brown's painted color both surprised and delighted me, as did the painted color covers by Noelle Giddings and Joseph Daniellin. Joseph, who has so far lettered all the books I've written at Milestone did his usual superlative job. I want to thank them, and I want to thank both Milestone and DC who handled this project with an unprecedented amount of support. Mostly I want to thank my writing partner, Yves Fezzani, who is also my Dini. Te amo. Querida mia!

THANKS!
 Addie

Milestone Crew,

Intense! Very very intense. Thanks very much for the DEATHWISH preview that you hand

Cover J.H. Williams / Jimmy Palmiotti / Noelle G. Giddings

ed out in San Diego. I think the Milestone titles are, book for book, the strongest line of comics currently published, and "DEATHWISH" is a fine addition to the line. His introduction in "HARDWARE" was chilling and quite ground breaking in that it got inside the head of Deathwish, examining the demons tormenting him, compelling his actions. It was handled in a far starker and more horrifying way than the crop of grim anti-hero vigilantes currently flooding the comics market.

Adam Blaustein mentioned at your panel at the Con that the "DEATHWISH" miniseries would not be in the mold of other grim and gritty characters. The heart of this series would be a love story, and that the featured protagonist would be "a woman but not a female." Despite Milestone's track record, I was still a bit skeptical and so waited until the haste and bustle of the Con was over to actually sit down and read it.

WOW! I'm Impressed.

Blaustein and Fezzani's deft characterization drew me immediately into the story. This is indeed quite different from anything I'd encountered before, and this is just the first issue's exposition. I like Marisa Rahm. Had lesser talent written this character, I most likely would not have. One of the many appeals of Milestone is the overall absence of stereotypes and clichés. This Dakota universe is populated by real people with all the attendant hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, loves and loathing of real life. What could easily have been a one-dimensional cipher with little purpose other than the shock value has been transcendently limned as a vibrant, vital and sympathetic personality.

That the appearances of the titular character are brief but pivotal is also a plus, one I hope holds true for the remainder of the series. The sheer horror that Deathwish's mere appearance elicits is nearly palpable, fear tinged awe fairly drips from page four. Intense. The art, appropriately, is moody and clearly laid out so as to propel the narrative along at a proper pace, something, unfortunately, increasingly rare these days when solid storytelling takes a backseat to flash and dazzle. Thank you J.H. Williams! Jimmy Palmiotti's inking is clear, bold, and professional as always.

Appreciatively,
 Kevin Andre Shaw
 1239 W. 51st Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90037

Dear Mr. Dwayne McDuffie,

"This Ain't No Cryin' Game" is a shame.

It's a shame that this segment of society has never been portrayed in a comic book of high caliber social consciousness as yours. Now, with the DEATHWISH miniseries, I'm enjoying

more of what you're good at: Grit & STORIES! A transsexual / serial-killer thriller! Has this ever been done before? I really admire the character of Lt. Marisa Rahm. She really has some big "Nipples." I can't wait! This story has me on pins and needles, needles and pins. It can only get hotter from here on out!!!

Sincerely,
 Lisa Padilla
 Pasaje, NJ

Deathwish,

Ain't nobody bad like the Deathwishman? I read it. I loved it. I'm waiting for the next one. Of course I'm talking about DEATHWISH #1. The writing and the art was great! But of course that's usual for a Milestone comic.

I had a feeling that you guys would come out with a couple of miniseries. Anyway, is there a chance this or the the Holocaust mini-series will become a regular series? Is there a chance we could be looking at a Deathwish / Hardware team-up or crossover??? Well, I know you guys are pretty busy up there so keep up the excellent work, you keep making them, and I'll keep buying them.

A loyal fan,
 David Hall
 2126 Haystack Cr.
 Detroit, MI 48207

Never too busy to give you exactly what you want! **HARDWARE #24** starts a three issue story arc entitled "The Hunt for Deathwish"! It's a Cyber-Gothic nightmare brought to you by Milestone's daemonic duo, Adam & Yves. They promise that you'll lose plenty of sleep reading this one. Look for it in thirty seven days!



**NEXT: REVENGE IS A DISH,
 BEST SERVED BALD!**

SCANNED BY
JHFRAIL DCP



BLAUSTEIN • WILLIAMS III • PALMIOTTI



SUGGESTED FOR
MATURE READERS

4
MAR

"IN DEATH
THERE ARE
NO RULES"

US \$2.50
CAN \$3.50
UK £1.50



MILESTONE

DEATHWISH



DIRECT SALES

00411



61941 20392



DID YOU KNOW
THAT WHEN YOU'RE
DEAD THERE
AREN'T ANY RULES?

THE BANAL MEANDERINGS OF
LIFE BECOME MEANINGLESS.

THERE IS
NO TIME.

THERE IS
NO SPACE--

AND BEAUTIFUL ANGELS
WITH GLITTERING WINGS
DANCE LIKE SHIVA
BETWEEN TWO WORLDS.

TEN YEARS
AGO I WAS IN
THE LIFE.

I WAS MISS DINI
LUNA, OF THE
INCOMPARABLE
HOUSE OF LUNA.

I WAS
THE DIVA.

I WISH YOU COULD
HAVE SEEN ME THEN,
MY SWEETNESS.

I REMEMBER ALL OF IT.
THE PROUD TEARS SHED
BY MY MOTHER--

Oh
Diva!!
ball!!

SOFT, BEAUTIFUL
AND REEEAAAALLL

THE ENTIRE
WORLD WAS
MY VIDEO

--LANA LUNA, MISS
BANJI REALNESS, ETER-
NAL PRINCESS OF
PEACE, KNOWN BY HER
FORMER PARENTS AS
GEORGE SIMMONS.

SHE WAS NO MORE A
GEORGE THAN I WAS
AN ESTEFAN.

I WAS A BRUJA
WHO HAD SPUN
FOR MYSELF AN
INTOXICATING
BUT SADLY
FRAGILE SPELL.

A MOST
ENCHANTING
ILLUSION--

--MY
DEAR
BOY!

A SADLY
FRAGILE
SPELL.



WHERE WERE YOU
THEN, MY SWEET
MARISA RAHM?



WHY DID I MEET
HIM BEFORE
I MET YOU?

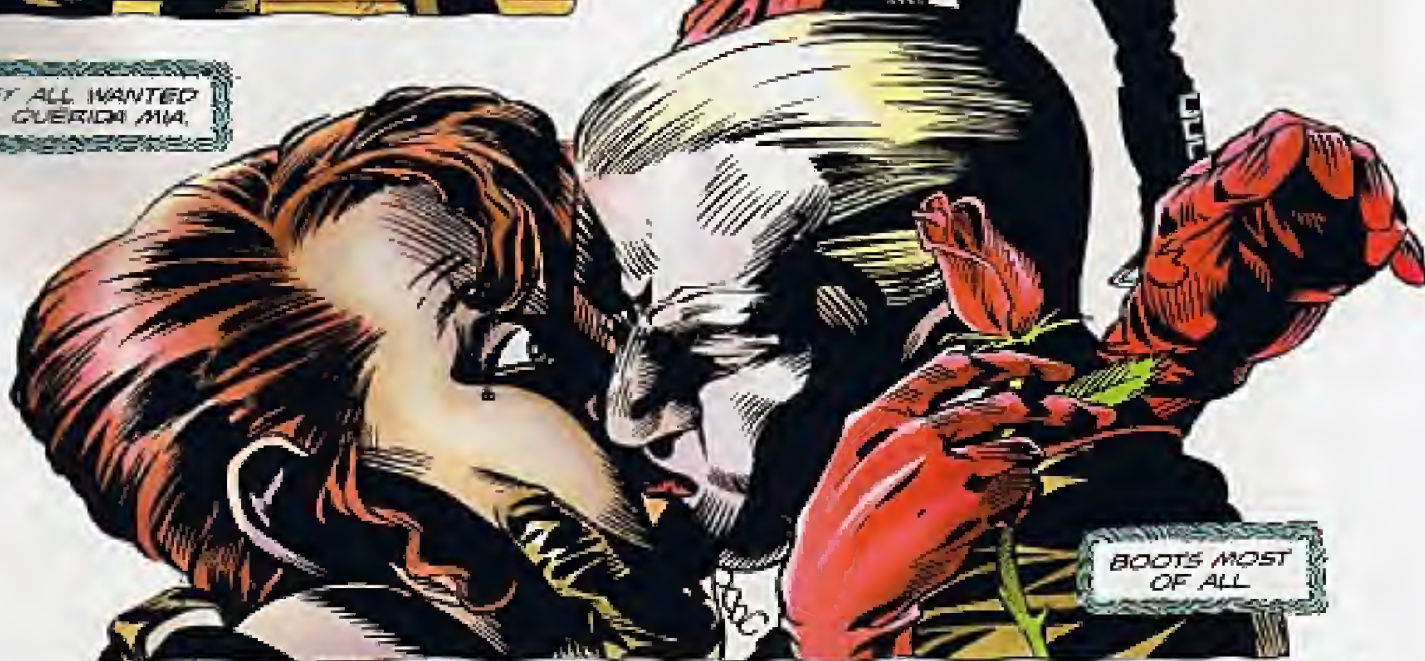


JAMES GORDON STALEY.

BOOTS.



THEY ALL WANTED
ME, GUERIDA MA.



BOOTS MOST
OF ALL.





WISH
YOU COULD
HEAR ME,
SWEET-
NESS



WISH WE
HAD GONE
TO PARIS



WISH I NEVER
MET BOOTS



WISH
YOU NEVER
MET THAT
MONSTER--

WISH YOU
COULD TALK
TO ME

SILENCE OF THE RAVN

ADAM BLAUSTEIN
writer

YVES FEZZANI
plot assist

J. H. WILLIAMS III
penciller

JIMMY PALMIOTTI
inker

J. BROWN
painted color

JOSEPH DANIELLO
letterer

DWAYNE MCDUFFIE
editor

10:56 PM, NEVERLAND

BOOTS WAS
THROWIN' A BLOOD-
BATH AND ALL THE
GIRLS WERE INVITED

WELL NOT ALL--
NO COPS AND
NO GEE-BEES
GENETIC GIRLS,
YA KNOW?

NORMALLY,
THAT WOULDVE
MEANT BOTH
ME AND SLIM.



I MEAN-- SLIM WAS
BORN FEMALE--



IT'S JUST THAT I WASN'T
A COP ANYMORE.



HELL, I'M NOT SURE
WHAT I WAS--



--BUT I WAS
FUCKIN' FISSER

SO WHAT'S
THE PLAN,
MARIS--



OOOOOH, YOU TOO,
GUERITA! AHA, YOU ARE
ONE OUCH-LOOKIN'
MAMI! EH, PAPI?

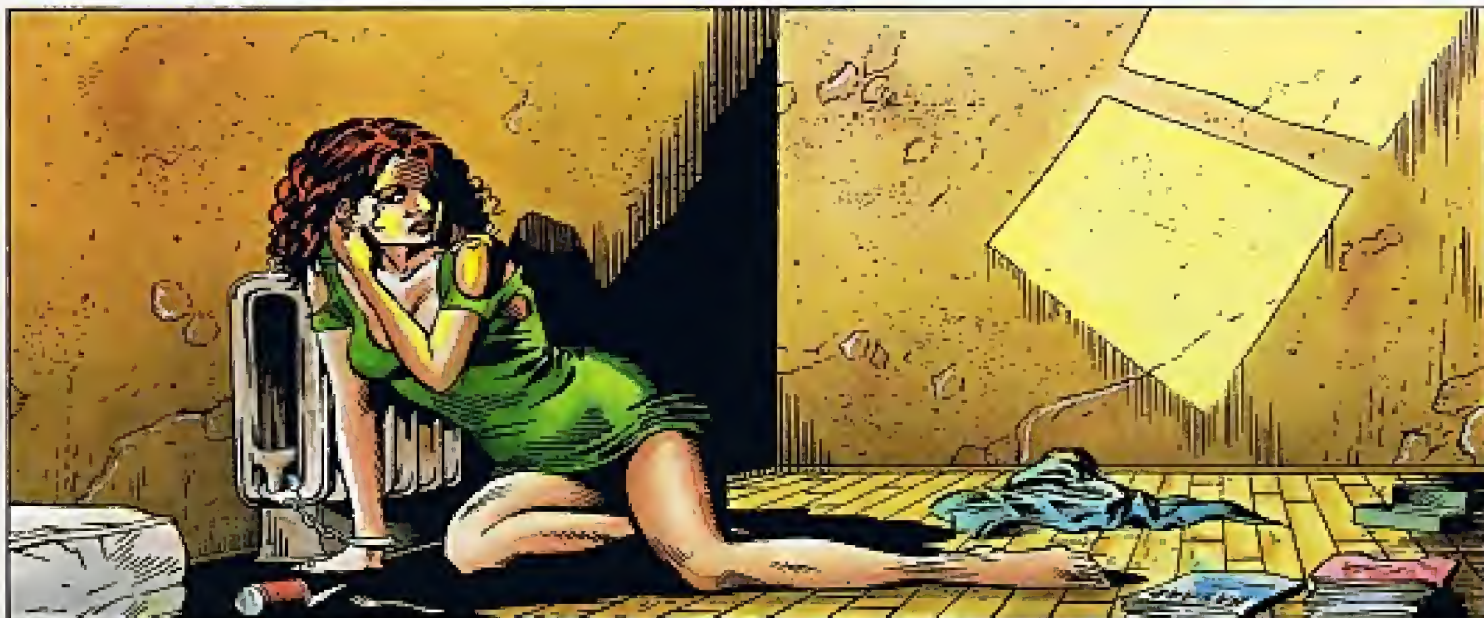
MY BRAVE
KNIGHT IN
SHINING
LEATHER
ARMOR--

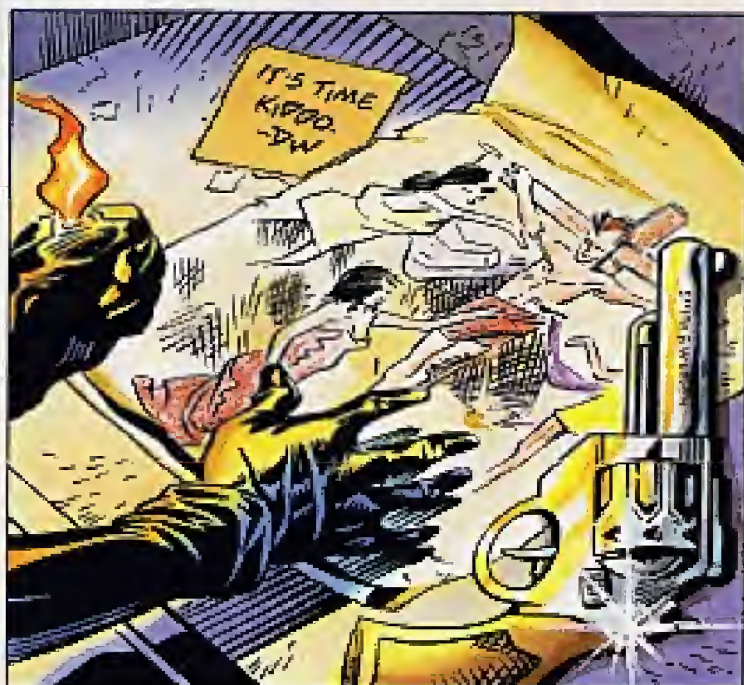
THOK

--DOWN! IT UP
LIKE ARIOSTA'S
BRADAMONTE


HOW COME I
NEVER SAW THIS SIDE
OF YOU, LOVER?



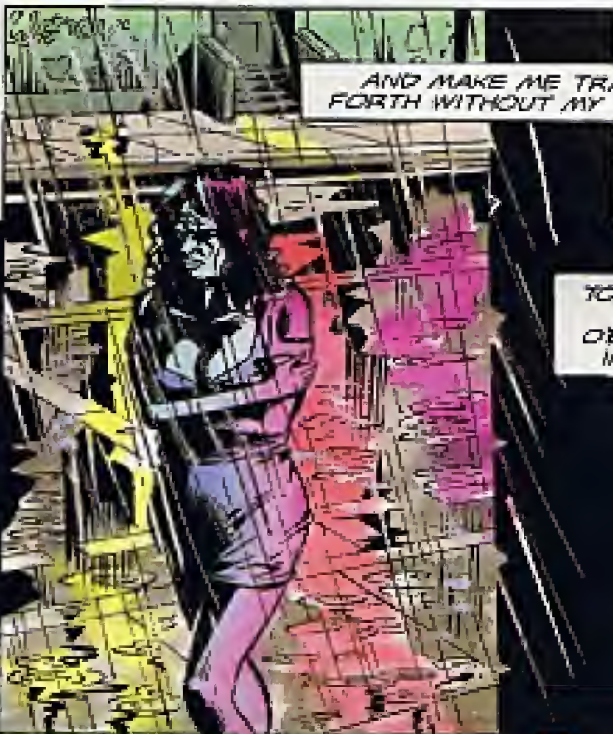






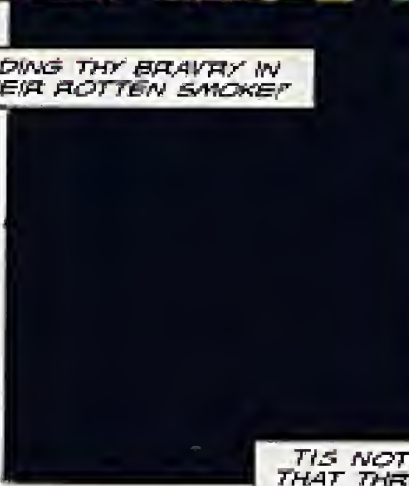


WHY DIDST THOU PROMISE
SUCH A BEAUTEIOUS DAY




AND MAKE ME TRAVEL
FORTH WITHOUT MY GLOAK,

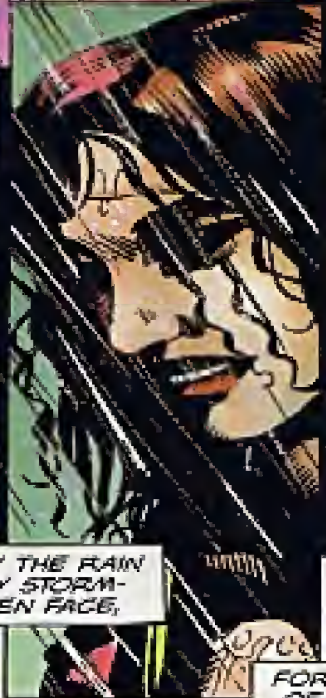
TO LET BASE
CLOUDS
OERTAKE ME
IN MY WAY,




HIDING THY BRAVRY IN
THEIR ROTTEN SMOKE?



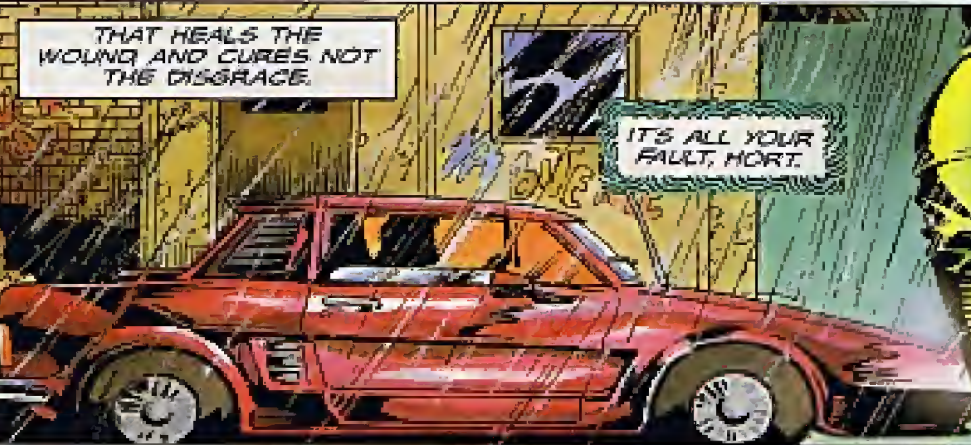
T'IS NOT ENOUGH
THAT THROUGH THE
CLOUD THOU BREAK



TO DRY THE RAIN
ON MY STORM-
BEATEN FACE,

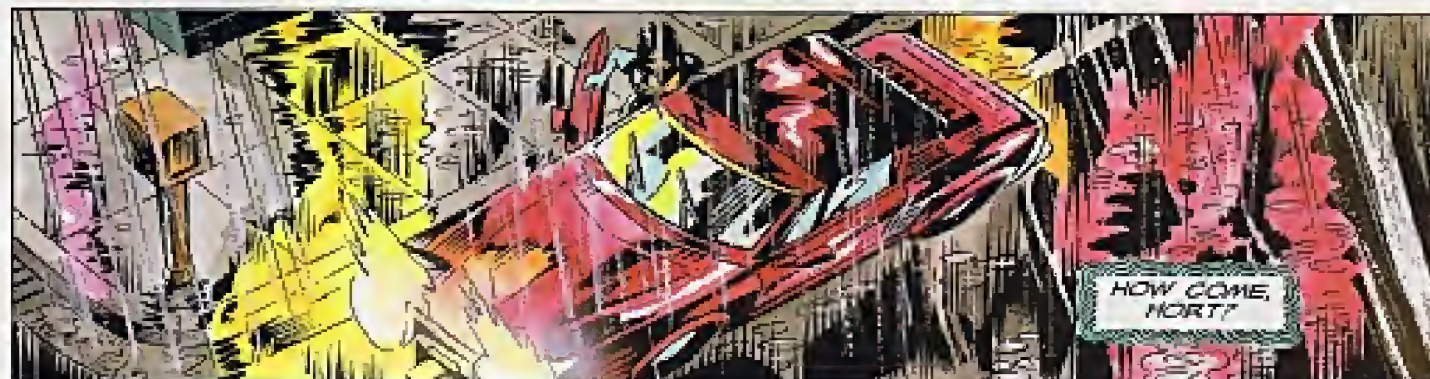


FOR NO MAN WELL
OF SUCH A SALVE
CAN SPEAK



THAT HEALS THE
WOUND AND CURES NOT
THE DISGRACE.

IT'S ALL YOUR
FAULT, MORT.





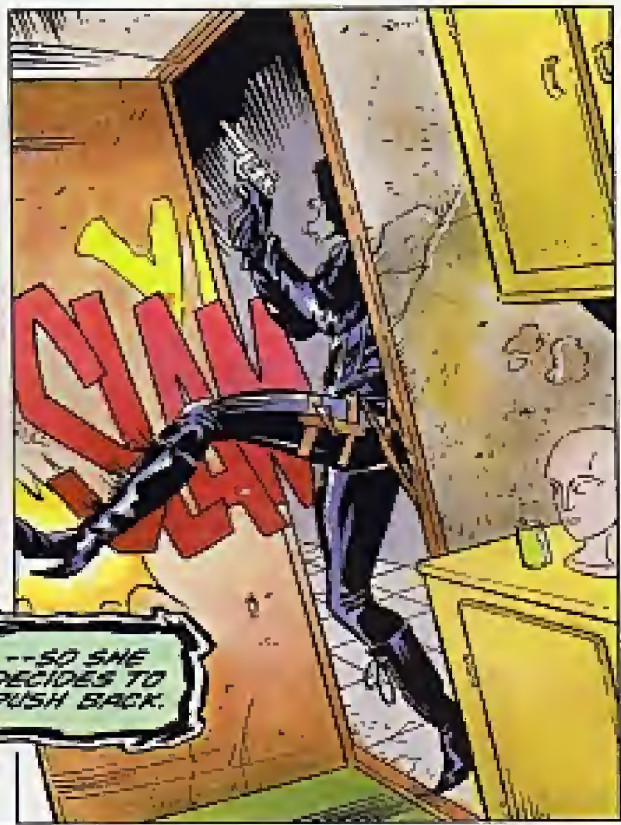


IF YOU HAD LISTENED
TO ME WE WOULD BE
IN PARIS RIGHT NOW.

THERE'S A MOVIE
ABOUT THIS GIRL
WHO GETS PUSHED
TOO FAR--



YOU STILL HAVE
A CHANCE TO
LISTEN, MADDIE



--SO SHE
DECIDES TO
PUSH BACK.



YOU ALWAYS HAVE
A CHANCE TO
HEAR ME IN TIME

YOUR DECISION.



YOUR DECISION.



SEE
YOU IN
HELL.



FREEZE,
TWISTO!



THAT'S
MISS
TWISTO.

WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
SUPPOSED TO
BE?



AN ART
CRITIC.



KRASH

ENOUGH.




I'VE TOLD
YOU BEFORE,
KIDDO.


GLIBNESS
DOESN'T
BECOME
YOU.

DO IT.







FUNNY THING
ABOUT DEATH--




--AS LOATHE AS THE LIVING
ARE TO ADMIT IT, THEY
DO KEEP ON LIVING.



THE JORNADA
DEL MUERTO



A PULSATING RHYTHM
OF WHITE NOISE THAT
COVERS UP THE SOUND
OF THE JACKAL'S GRY.



DID YOU
HEAR A
GUNSHOT?



367 OGDEN AVENUE,
SACHEM CITY.

HOME.

THIS WAS
THE NIGHT I
LOST DINI.

LIEUTENANT KEVIN
SCOTT THORNE.

ONE
OF DAKOTA'S
FINEST.

DINI WAS PRETTY
SCRAFFY, LEFT
NUTBOY WITH A
PERMANENT SCAR.



MY BABY WASN'T AS LUCKY.





SWEET DREAMS, SWEETNESS.

I'LL PROTECT YOU, QUERIDA.

ALWAYS.



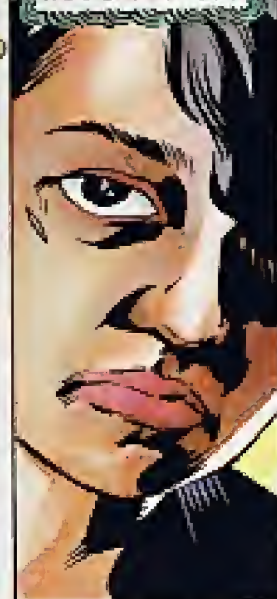
WILL YOU BE STAYING, THEN?

I DUNNO.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HORT!

JUST BLOW OUT THE CANDLES AND MAKE A WISH.



POISON

TE AMO.

LOVE 'N' DEATH

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DEATHWISH IS A FOUR ISSUE LIMITED SERIES. WRITE TO: LOVE 'N' DEATH 112 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 409 NEW YORK, NY 10011



YVES SPEAKS...

Dini Torres isn't really dead. I am Dini. As much as Marisa's story is Addie's, Dini's is mine. Addie thought it was only fitting that since the final issue of Deathwish was narrated by the character of Dini Torres, that I be given the chance to speak. The Deathwish miniseries was more than art to me. The memories it evoked in me were so strong that at times it became quite unsettling. I wasn't even aware of my own feelings of survivor-guilt until I saw it taking shape within the themes presented in our story.

On the first page, of the first issue the reader briefly encounters Jackie, a friend of Dini's who has just been killed by the serial-killer, Boots. She too was based on a real person, my bestfriend Jackie Kaufman. Jackie had met a similar fate back in the mid-eighties. I'd like to dedicate a part of this work to her, because she's not forgotten in my mind.

Jackie, I miss you, and I love you.

When I first met Addie, I was still a dweller "in the life." I am very impressed that a company like Milestone was prepared to portray something that is still so extraordinary to most people. I was also impressed that we weren't made to feel that we had to present these themes in a gratuitous fashion. I would like to personally thank Dwayne McDuffie, Denys Cowan, and Derek Dingle for their courage and foresight in creating a company where everyone's voices are heard. Finally, I'd like to thank the goddess for Simone.

-- Yves S. Pezzani



ADAM & YVES

Dear Milestoners,

I am a post-transsexual spansexual, which means that I've gone through the whole medical process of genital realignment, and rejecting the same accept that I am simultaneously male and female (thus "spansexual," spanning the gender gap). I don't regret losing the more obvious aspects of maleness, on the contrary, that was part of the process I had to go through to reach my current state of assentively being male and female in a society that is very hostile to the idea of being more than one gender. No, I don't regret having mine removed, but I'm angry that I was lied to, and that vulnerable transs are still being lied to, to support the false idea that healthy humans are either male or female and not both.

The reason that so many people are fascinated or repulsed, same thing, different charge) by transs is because people who transgress gender roles have something to say to everyone who feels trapped by their gender role, judging from the astoundingly adult and open-minded way you folks at Milestone portray human nature and interaction. I'm probably preaching to the converted here.

Thank you, everybody involved, for all the transs and non-mainstream sexualities in Milestone. Thank you, in fact, for Milestone.

Outta here,
Norrie-May Welby
Kings Cross, Australia

Dear Adam & Yves,

DEATHWISH continues to pick up steam; the pacing has been exceptional, and nowadays in comics pace is a forgotten art. Now, I don't know if I'll win a prize for noticing this, but on page 14, panel 4, there is an interesting compositional choice. The moon behind Boots' head gives the illusion of a halo. It gives a good impression that he views himself as being holy and/or doing holy work. It fits with the religious imagery of both his artwork and his quotations. Sort of reminds me of the Gemini Killer from the movie "Exorcist III" (when he brags about being an artist and employing showmanship) although Boots' psychosis is much more deeply ingrained and serious.

One final paddling note - I'm sure you're going to get a LOT of letters from people commenting on the use of the word "f***" in issue #3. I have always felt that in movies

and some books that the overuse of f*** sort of deflates its impact, and lessens its value. I consider this a very tasteful use of a word not often thought of as tasteful.

Sincerely,
Jonah Falcon
427 W26 St. #7E
NY, NY 10001-5626

Dear Editors,

This really isn't even a story about the grim and gritty vigilante type hero, Deathwish. This is the story of Lt. Marisa Rahm. I can't recall the last time I read a story that involved so much gender bending, and at that, I can't recall when I've read one of these stories that has been so interesting. You don't trivialize the gender bending, I appreciate that. I'll just say that this is one of the better, most interesting and intriguing stories that I've read all year. And there's also gun-blazing action to boot! I like this comic so much I think I'll check out more Milestone stuff, keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Marlan Harris
Nuevo, CA



This miniseries is over, but the nightmares truly begin in...

THE HUNT FOR DEATHWISH

A Cyber-gothic tale of terror

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